

Colestin Organic Farm
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April 18, 2001

FINAL REPORT

Grantee: Ilona Toko
Project Name: Pond Enhancement and Riparian Fencing
Project ID No: 99-PARTNERS-01
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Date: April 18, 2001
Report Period: March 1, thru July 24, 2000

Final Report

Our attempt is to restore vegetation to the pond on our property after many previous years of cattle grazing on this area by previous owners. Very little vegetation was growing around the periphery of the pond because of the cattle. Pond water temperatures rise in the summer heat causing algal growth that covers the surface of certain areas of the pond. Our intent was twofold, 1) plant vegetation to provide habitat for wildlife including, migrating waterfowl, and all local animals, and 2) cool the temperature of the pond water with shade in order to produce a healthier ecosystem in the pond itself.

Pond area was prepared by Fred Marken by plowing for seeding and planting. Approximately 7 hours were spent in this endeavor.

Dan Bish from Plant Oregon in Phoenix, Oregon was consulted about the kinds and number of plants to be selected for pond edge planting. Dan came to the project site once in January, 2000 to view the site and again in late March to do some of the planting. He spent 8 hours planting and doing some staking and fertilizing leaving us with examples to follow for post planting care. We spent an additional 20 hours finishing the planting, mulching, composting, and erecting fencing in front of the planting area for deer protection.

The area is planted with: Black Cottonwood, Alder, Oregon Ash, Ponderosa Pine, Incense Cedar, Redtwig Dogwood, Native Willow Species, Douglas Spirea, Mock Orange and other misc. plants that Dan brought up in flats.

The area around the shrub and tree area was planted with Crimson Clover seed as a cover crop. The area is being watered and we are seeing the trees and shrubs grow and thrive.

After this first summer with watering and getting through the winter with its normal rainfall we should see a majority of all that was planted well established.

Summary: We are pleased with the project as a whole. The plants will grow rapidly with water from the pond. Already we are seeing natural grasses and tules growing around the pond as a result of keeping cattle out of the area.

This project's results will become increasingly beneficial to this small pond on the south end of our property. As the water cools, and shade is provided around the periphery we will see an increase in habitat for the Canada geese and numerous varieties of ducks we see land on the pond each year as they make their annual migrations.

Our goal was to fence a portion of Cottonwood Creek to allow riparian enhancement. Photos were taken before the project was begun showing areas where cattle could access the Creek. Our plan was to keep grazing cattle on adjacent property from entering the Creek riparian area allowing natural habitat an opportunity to grow thus protecting the Creek water.

Fencing material was bought to fence 1500 feet along the West side of Cottonwood Creek. The materials costs were \$516.66. Seventy hours of labor were required for this project.

Six foot steel posts were pounded into the ground every 10 feet and 4" X 8' treated wood posts were inserted into holes dug into the ground every 100 feet. Five rows of barbed wire were attached to the steel and wood posts. Corners were reinforced with additional wood posts.

This project's results will be come increasingly apparent after a year of having no cows trampling Cottonwood Creeks riparian area.

To have the opportunity to restore just a small place for the many species of wildlife that live in our region is an honor in which we are pleased to participate, along with the help of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the knowledgeable agents who offered their expertise, counsel, and judgment.