

Hornaday Award Project Summary

Project Category: Invasive Species Control

Wetland Restoration in a Longmont, CO City Park

Plan: Russian olives are hardy, drought-resistant, non-native shrubs that displace most native plants from waterways. Their long, sharp thorns often harm animals and hikers. The aims of my project were to remove Russian olive trees and entangled trash from a weed-choked waterway in Stephen Day Park in Longmont, CO and to educate the community about the problems caused by using invasive species for landscaping.

Leadership: I organized Scouts and leaders from Troop 65 and Pack 59 in Longmont into teams to cut down Russian olive trees, apply herbicide to the stumps, and remove the branches and trash. My roles as leader were to rotate among the different crews to ensure that workers stayed on track and did not remove the native trees. I also helped train the Scouts in safe handling of saws, and assisted in cutting trees and removing branches.

Results: The direct outcome of the group effort was to remove approximately 120 Russian olive trees and five 30-gallon bags of trash from a 300-yard stretch of streambed (plus a small cluster of Russian Olives that were nearby). As the public education spokesperson for the project, I distributed brochures to about 45 nearby homes to encourage the removal of Russian olives from their yards (to prevent reseeding the waterway) and publication of the adapted brochure in the local newspaper to tell the rest of the city about the issue. The project was a success because the renovated thicket lining the stream bed is now free of thorny trees and trash.

Date Completed: 04/01/11

Number of People Involved: 29

