

## Bear Creek Medford Riparian Restoration Project Vandalism Report - December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Summary report by Kim Adams, Natural Resources Technician

### General Summary

On December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Kim Adams received notice from an RVCOG colleague concerning vandalism and removal of trees from the Medford Riparian Planting Project in the vicinity of McAndrews Road. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Ms. Adams conducted an assessment of the damage on site. Ms. Adams found 52 shrubs and trees missing (uprooted) along the west side of Bear Creek Greenway between Jackson Street and McAndrews Road. Six out of the 52 plants were found near where they were planted. Those found were retrieved and replanted. The remaining plants could not be located, and it is suspected that the plants were thrown into Bear Creek as the removal occurred in close proximity to the creek. One of the trees was cut at the base with what appears to be a sharp object (e.g., a knife or loppers) as evidenced in the photo below.

The damage occurred sometime between December 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 28<sup>th</sup> 2014. The area vandalized was isolated to a narrow strip beginning approximately 100 feet south of the stormwater cement pipe outfall (see photo below) and continued south to where the power lines/telephone pole cross the path and creek spanning a length of approximately 300 feet.

Estimated damage for the site is approximately \$1,000 which covers the cost of the trees and labor for crew installation of the plants.

### Bear Creek Riparian Project Vandalism Tree and Shrub Count (12/29/14)

Species	Total Uprooted	Total Recovered and Re-planted
Chokecherry	6	1
Snowberry	11	1
White Alder	15	2
Bigleaf Maple	1	0
Oregon Crabapple	2	0
Nutka Rose	2	1
Oregon Ash	4	1
Tall Oregon Grape	4	0
Indian Plum	2	0
Unknown (hole with flag missing)	5	
<b>Sum</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>6</b>

### Field Visit Notes:

Right at the beginning of where the trees and shrubs were uprooted (North section closest to cement pipe) an interesting article of clothing was found reading 'Armed Society, Defend till Death' (see photo below). In addition, some newer looking trash was found in the vicinity (See photos below). Two weeks earlier trash in that area had been removed suggesting that the area had been recently accessed and the trash was recently deposited.

**Bear Creek Medford Riparian Restoration Project Vandalism Report - December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014**



Stormwater cement pipe outfall.



Trash found at the beginning of area vandalized.

**Bear Creek Medford Riparian Restoration Project Vandalism Report - December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014**



Trash found at the beginning of area vandalized.



Tree cut off at base.



Uprooted trees.



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### Follow-up/Next Steps

- Notified project manager Craig Tuss about the incident.
- Reported the incident to Officer Greg Nichols of the Medford Police Department on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- The area was checked again on December 31st and no additional plants were disturbed.
- Replacement shrubs and trees have been ordered and replanting will occur in January 2015.
- Filed a report of the incident to Deputy Rebecca Venables on January 6, 2015.