

Stewardship Day Report
Goat Hill
September 16, 2016

Attending: Chris Hoess,* Tracy Raymond, Kent Wagner,* and Bill Whittaker; Jennifer Pavao and 7 volunteers from North American Breweries (Elspeth Everhart, Jason Giulia, Greta Jensen, Jordan Jeziorski, Fran Resnick, Kevin Wilson, and Brian Parsons), referred by TNC

Time on task: 3 hours/ person (est.; 10 AM to 1 PM)

Total time: (including meals, equipment transfer, and clean up): 4.5 hours /person

Highlights:

- Greenbrier removed from north end of area 86
- Areas 87 and 93 cleared of greenbrier and united
- Some clearing done in grassland at west end of area 21

Kent and Bill arrived at Goat Hill at 8:30 am and loaded the new Billy Goat, the brush cutters, and other equipment at the shed and transferred them to the Goat Hill parking lot. Chris joined at 9:00 am and we briefed the TNC volunteers on the plan for the day. We carpooled down the woods road to the scraped areas and unloaded at the head of the first scraped area (area 1).

Chris and Jennifer took a brush-cutter and loppers and descended to the Rose Trail, working on a small area of savanna at the west end of area 21, on the north side of the trail. Jennifer cut down all the small red-cedars in the area and Chris removed the greenbrier from the east side before returning to area 86. Tracy directed three of the brewery volunteers down to the Rose Trail, where they removed encroaching greenbrier with loppers.

Kent led the main work party at the northwest end of area 86. Greenbrier was successfully cleared out of the north end of that grassland by brush-cutter, while the Billy Goat and brush-cutters were used to clear areas 87 and 93, more or less re-creating the single grassland area cleared in fall 2008. The area can now be entered directly from the trail between areas 1 and 86. Tracy led a swamping crew, including Jennifer, to haul the cut greenbrier to brush piles along the edges; area 86 is partly cleared of greenbrier. Tracy had to leave about 12:30, and three of the breweries volunteers also had to leave around 12:00. The others remained, with a break for lunch and some interruptions to take calls, until about 1:30 pm. Kent and Bill returned the equipment to the shed.

Chris and Jennifer subsequently encountered 3 hunters from Lancaster County in the Goat Hill parking lot after looking for fameflower in the scraped area. They were planning to camp and hunt for deer on BoF lands; the leader of the party is a bowhunter and says he only hunts in conservation lands (less crowded) and will contact us if he likes the hunting.

Two issues of concern arose for future operations:

1. We need to make sure the core group knows how to start and keep running our mechanical devices; the old Billy Goat could not be started at the shed. Re-starting the brush cutters when they run dry on fuel has also been an issue in the past.
2. Some of the volunteer group was not prepared (in dress or mentally) for working with mechanized equipment.