

WOODY INVASIVES REMOVAL

Megan Hoyer, MDA





Management and Community Involvement- Beloved Two Moon Park

Megan Hoyer

Buckthorn Bandit ~ Friend of Two Moon
Park



Volunteer Engagement Activities



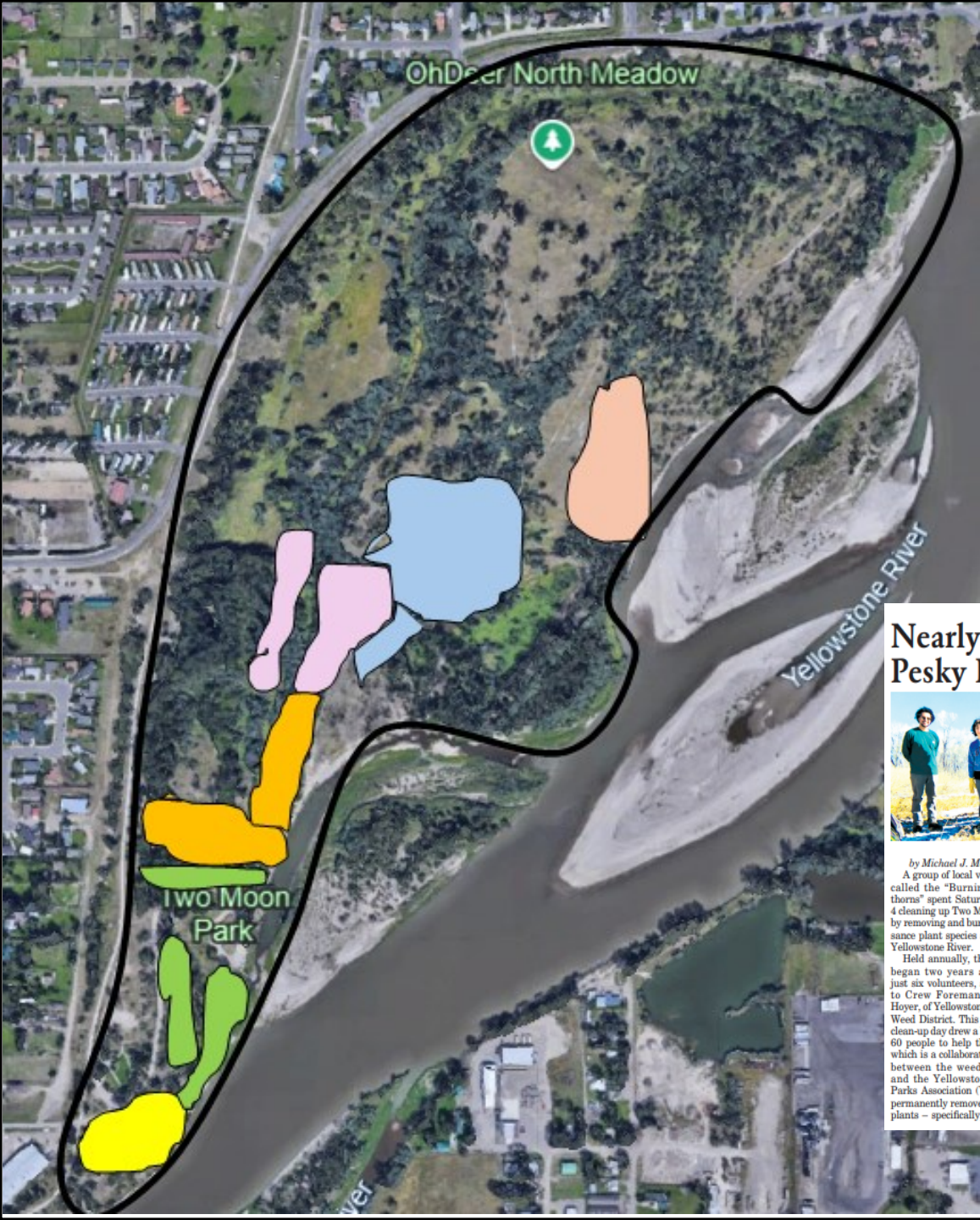
Education, Outreach, Positive Long-Term Impact



Ownership



Recent Efforts and Partnerships



Nearly 60 Volunteers Clean Up Pesky Plants at Two Moon Park



by Michael J. Marino
 A group of local volunteers called the "Burning Buckthorns" spent Saturday, Feb. 4 cleaning up Two Moon Park by removing and burning nuisance plant species along the Yellowstone River.

Held annually, the project began two years ago with just six volunteers, according to Crew Foreman, Megan Hoyer, of Yellowstone County Weed District. This year, the clean-up day drew a little over 60 people to help the cause, which is a collaborative effort between the weed district and the Yellowstone River Parks Association (YRPA) to permanently remove invasive plants – specifically, Russian

olive trees and Buckthorn berry trees.

YRPA staff member, Carolyn Sevier, said these two trees are quite pesky and "cause a lot of damage to the habitat," mainly because they "choke out" the other plants in the area with their unnecessarily long roots. This in turn renders native plants, like cottonwood trees, unable to grow. In addition, Sevier said birds like to eat the berries produced by Buckthorns, but the berries end up "giving them digestive problems."

Hoyer told YCN, "When we started two years ago at the south end of the park... the Russian olives were just more prolific than the natural

vegetation," hence the reason they chose the tree as their focus for removal. She also noted that if one simply cuts down a Russian olive, it will still be able to reproduce into more trees, which is why she and the Burning Buckthorn volunteers take the extra step of lighting the dead trees aflame.

The County Weed District and YRPA usually host a burn like the one this weekend on the first Saturday of each month, depending on the weather, and Hoyer encouraged anyone interested to simply show up to the next burn. To confirm whether one is being held, or to learn more, readers may call the weed district office at 406-256-2708.

