

# DELAY,

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Lawyer said there are some positives to the delay. For one, bids in the late fall/early winter are usually lower than prior to the construction season. The additional time will also allow utilities to be relocated as needed. There is also the issue of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, which begins March 1 each year and mandates nesting birds found in a work zone not be disturbed.

Thus, trees that would need to come down for the roundabout – Lawyer estimated four large fir trees would be impacted – could not be taken down until after nesting season. The federal law must be followed on any project using federal funds, such as this one.

“This wasn’t widely publicized,” Lawyer said of the federal law. “It was discussed for delaying the (Chemawa Road Reconstruction Project) contract. We couldn’t get on the road until we could get the right-of-way. The trees came out like Feb. 29. It was that close. We all knew it wasn’t going to be possible to keep it on this year’s project.”

Lawyer said none of the factors were necessarily more important than the others.

“It was a combination of factors,” he said. “It wasn’t any one thing that jumped out. If you reverse engineer them, those were some of the downsides to getting it done this year.”

Lawyer said there should be no need to wonder if another delay will happen.

“I don’t see that at all,” he said. “We have to stay on schedule. We have to have the right-of-way closed by September to keep this on schedule.”

The roundabout topic typically draws quite a bit of reaction. Last week’s *Keizertimes* web poll, posted on the paper’s Facebook page each Thursday, reached more than 1,400 people and had 26 comments online, on top of the actual poll results. A story on the topic last month had more than 30 comments online.

According to Lawyer, project plans such as the roundabout are developed in stages, working through an ODOT process. The Plan Specification and Estimates has to be turned in several weeks before the bid date.

“They are close to turning that in,” Lawyer said of the project consultants. “The design is basically done.”



Above: Jerry Nuttbrock moves a couple more trees to a big pile while clearing land for the Big Toy on Feb. 26 in the orchards at Keizer Rapids Park. Below: Mark Caillier painted white spots on trees to be cut down, while Tony Weathers did the trimming on the trees.



Jerry Nuttbrock (left) took down 198 trees to make room for the Big Toy and the associated parking, at the request of Clint Holland (right).

# BIG TOY,

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“We’ve done some great projects before,” he said. “Clint and I are a team. I’ve been in this business for 40-plus years. In this business, you’re always thinking ahead. I’m visualizing where the parking lot and where the Big Toy will go.”

“This is going to be a great amenity of the park,” Nuttbrock added. “What I like is it’s primarily being done with volunteers. This whole park was done with volunteers. Whatever comes in the future will be done by volunteer efforts as well.”

Trees at the perimeters were marked with ribbons, letting Nuttbrock know the outside dimensions for the area.

“The parking lot will come to here,” he said, pointing to an area he had just cut trees from. “The Big Toy will go out from here to the south.”

Like Holland, Nuttbrock had some question about taking out so many trees from a working orchard, but he looks at the big picture.

“In the end, it’s for the kids,” Nuttbrock said. “It’s why I am here.”

For Nuttbrock, taking down a lot of trees is no work at all.

“I’ve taken a lot of orchards out, so 200 trees is not much,” he said. “I don’t even have to think about it. Usually I’m thinking about something else.”

Once the trees were cleared out, a big sign denoting the area as the future home of the Big Toy was put up. Caillier said 600 yards of gravel will be brought in later, roughly a half-foot thick.

During Tuesday’s Community Build Task Force meeting, Holland said the four days spent clearing the trees went well.

“You couldn’t ask for anything better,” Holland said. “The weather cooperated. If you hired people to get this done, you’d be talking one-third to one-quarter of the total project cost. We’re going to try to get the water in, maybe electrical, and the parking lot.”

CBTF chair Marlene Quinn was among those expressing appreciation.

“I want to give kudos to Clint and his group for the time spent out there,” Quinn said as former mayor Lore Christopher gave Holland a kiss. “Fantastic Clint, thank you so much!”



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