

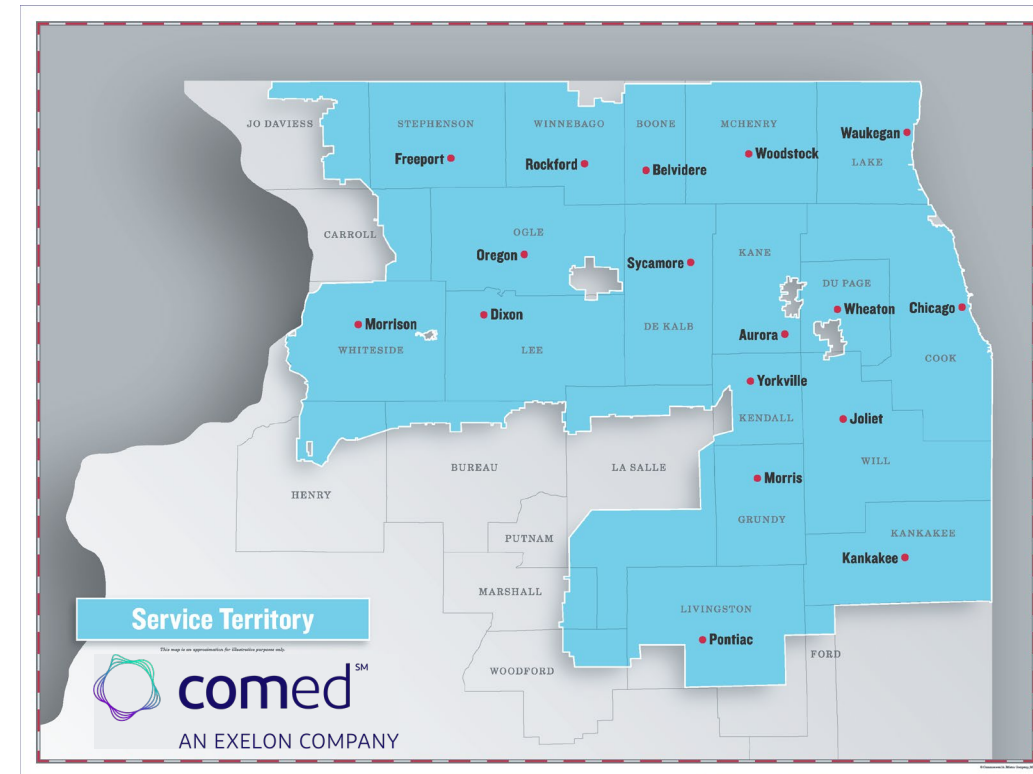
Goats as a Vegetation Management Solution

Kelvin Limbrick

ComEd Vegetation Management Senior Program Manager

ComEd System

- The ComEd Transmission system is made up of over 5,400 miles of transmission lines
 - Voltages vary from 765kv to 69kv
 - 127,000 acres
 - 15,000 potential acres of habitat
 - 500+ acres of ComEd Prairie
- Covers most of northern Illinois
 - Indiana to Iowa
 - Wisconsin to Springfield, IL
- 5-year Vegetation Management cycle



Examples: Skokie Valley Bike Path Before and After (2023)



Quantifying Success as of 2023

- Safety and Reliability
 - 2023 ReliabilityOne® Outstanding System Reliability Award
 - 2023 ReliabilityOne® Award for Outstanding Reliability Performance in the Midwest Region
- CCAA Milestones
 - 8,505 Adopted Acres
 - 4.5 million milkweeds distributed
 - 1.5 million purchased and being distributed and tracked across the system for 2024
 - 1,384 plots sampled
 - 7.5 milkweed stems plot average
 - 170 monarchs detected



Let's goo...at it



[Click link to view video](#)

Targeted Grazing

- "Targeted, prescribed, or conservation grazing:"
 - Managing **specific** livestock in a **strategic way** to achieve **specific** land management goals
- Goats target broad-leafed weeds and woody vegetation
- Kiko goats typically eat around 10-20% of its body weight daily in fresh vegetation
- No chemicals or heavy machinery in steep or uneven terrain!



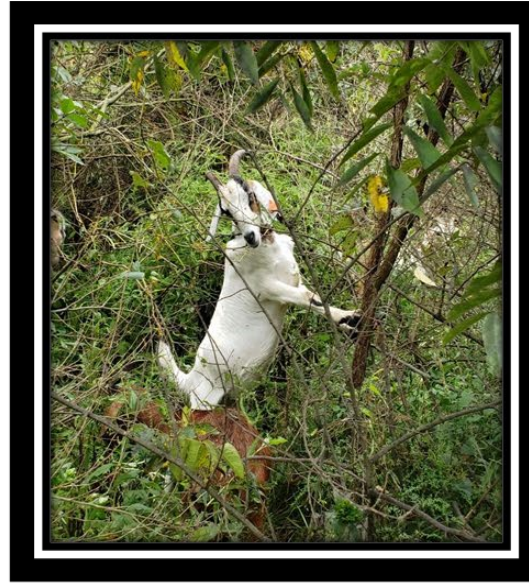
Targeted Grazing

- Stress targeted plants and rob them of vigor dramatically reducing reproduction and killing plants if applied correctly
- Can push down vegetation up to six feet tall
- As ruminants, their four-part digestive systems ferment the vegetation they eat
- Many species of weed seeds are not viable after passing
- Free fertilizer!



Why We Use Goats

“These ravines are crazy steep; we need a goat to clear it!”

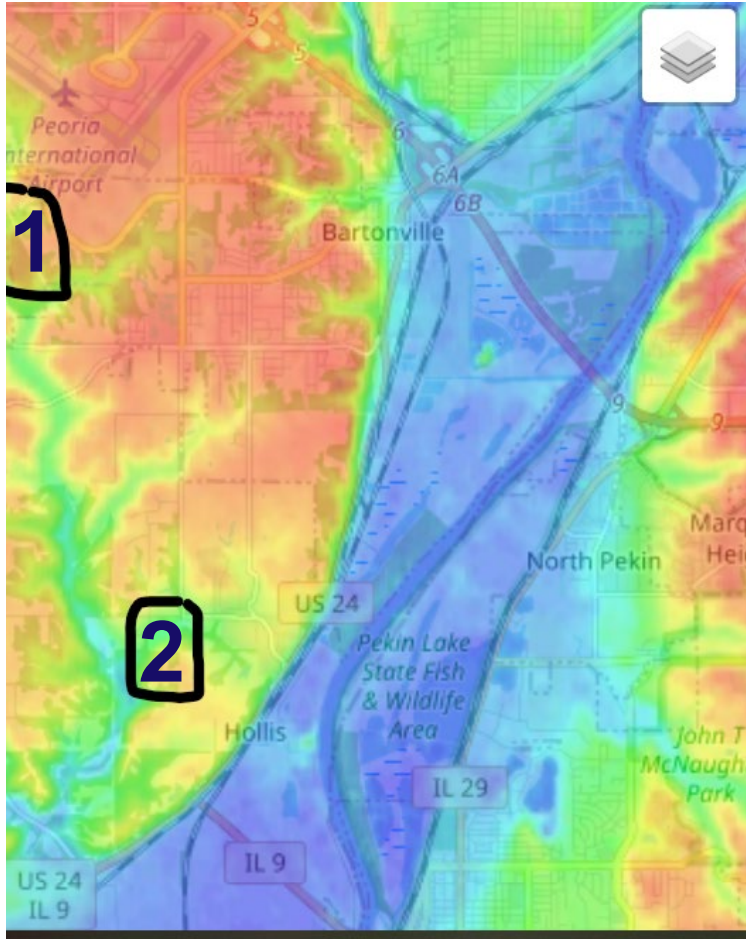


Why We Use Goats

- Steep ravines with creeks in the bottom in sensitive areas
- Mowing equipment cannot be used safely due to slope
- Estimated manual contractor workforce for 600-800 work hours; ~\$150K for 3 weeks
- Due to the terrain and weather, worker slips and falls are a concern
- After performing research, we found a contractor and the estimate to use goats to clear the brush was \$15-20k per year



The Peoria Location



- Nine acres located inside Peoria airport property on the Illinois Air National Guard base
 - Maintained and monitored by USDA
- Eight acres on private land

- Elevation changes
 - Section 1-54' change in elevation
 - Section 2-63' change in elevation



[Click link to view video](#)

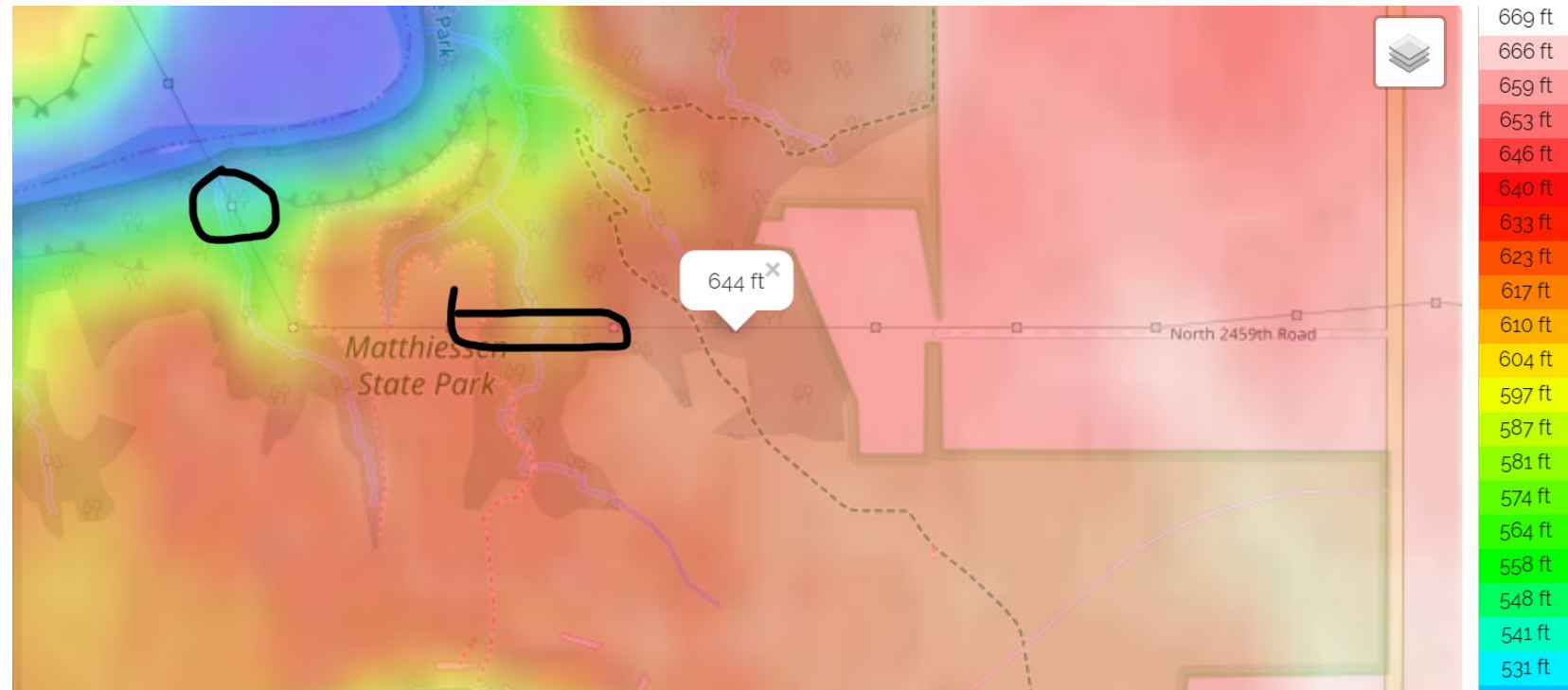
Peoria Before and After



2022-2024 Location

The Oglesby Location

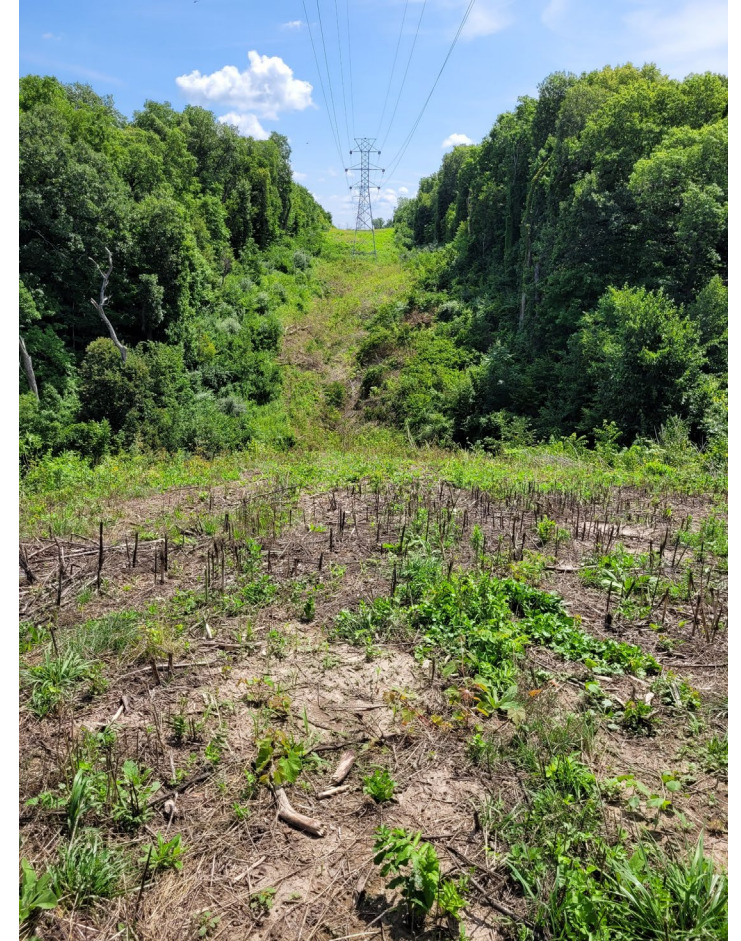
- Seven Acres at Matthiessen State Park
- 35 teenage male goats
- Coordination between ComEd and IDNR
- 113' difference in elevation between the two locations
- Will return in 2024
- In 2018 for three crews for weeks cost \$75,000
- Goat use showing 70% savings so far



Oglesby Location 1 2022 Before and After



Oglesby Location 1 2023 Before and After (N)

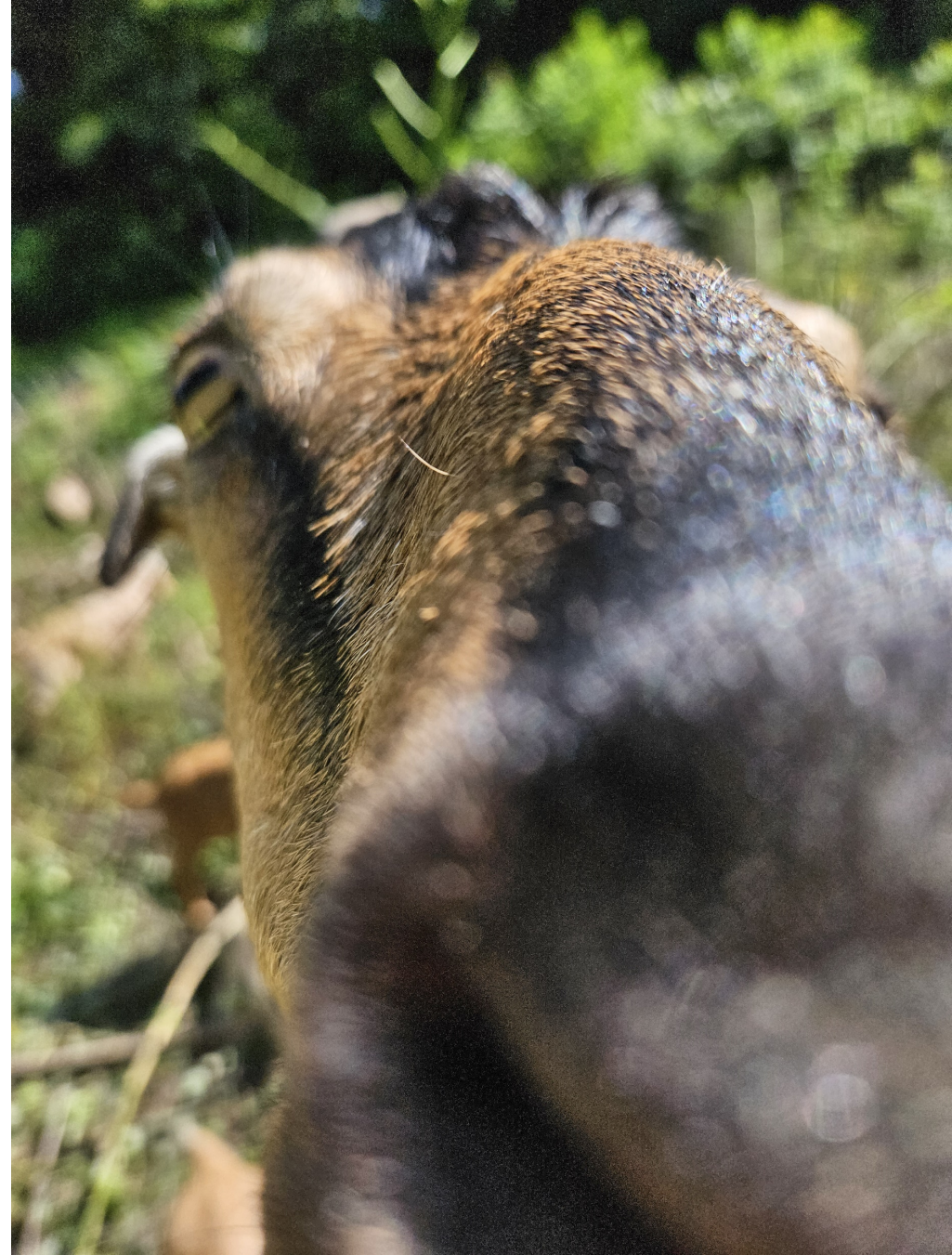


Oglesby Location 1 2023 Before and After (Ravine S)



Lessons Learned

- Large herd (200 goats) eats approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ acre/day
- Small herd (35 goats) eats about two acres/ week
- Moms and kids are hard to work with
- Hard to herd or predict productivity
- Become ineffective/bored after being in same area for four weeks
- They will leave
- Ensure that fenced areas are away from gullies in heavy rain
- Ensure local authorities have contact info



Social Media/Communications Campaigns



2019-Petting Zoo Daley Plaza



2020-GoatTerns

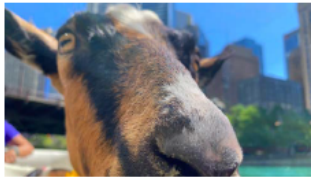


2021-Hot Goat Summer



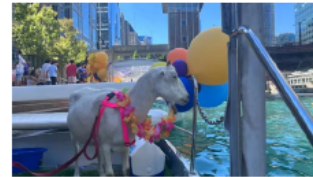
2022-Goat Boat Parade

2022 Goats on Boats!



Goats afloat: ComEd thanks brush-eating critters with Chicago River cruise

By Rachel Pierson | August 31, 2022
Potential Audience Reach: 416.1K



Goats On Boat Tour Chicago River Before Heading To Work

By Jonah Meadows | August 31, 2022
Potential Audience Reach: 1M



Goats will receive a river cruise to help celebrate the end of summer!

By Currey McCullough | August 31, 2022
Potential Audience Reach: 52.4K



Goats Take Boat Detour On Way To Matthiessen State Park

By Ryan Searl | August 31, 2022
Potential Audience Reach: 53



Goats On A Boat: Illinois Electric Company Treats Goats To River Cruise

By: News Desk | September 1, 2022



There's going to be a Goat Parade on the Chicago River Today

By: Cara Carriveau | August 31, 2022
Potential Audience Reach: 1.1K

- Second annual goat boat parade
- Received national attention in 40 cities
- Just under 30 million homes reached



2023 Windy City Goat Tour



CNN 10:
The big stories of
the day, explained
in 10 minutes



August 30, 2023
Potential audience reach: 74.5k



Regresan a Chicago
las cabras de la
compañía de ComEd



By: Staff | August 30, 2023
Potential audience reach: 29.8k



ComEd goats tour
downtown Chicago
after 2 weeks of work



By: Staff | August 30, 2023
Potential audience reach: 543



ComEd goats tour
downtown Chicago after
2 weeks clearing
vegetation near LaSalle
County power lines



By: John Garcia | August 29, 2023
Potential audience reach: 146.7k



No kidding! ComEd
goats get a 'thank you'
tour of Chicago



By: Staff | August 29, 2023
Potential audience reach: 76.1k



ComEd goats
tour Chicago



By: Staff | August 29, 2023
Potential audience reach: 76.1k



ComEd's lawn-mowing
goats celebrate after
clearing 7 acres of
vegetation



By: Staff | August 29, 2023
Potential audience reach: 49.5k

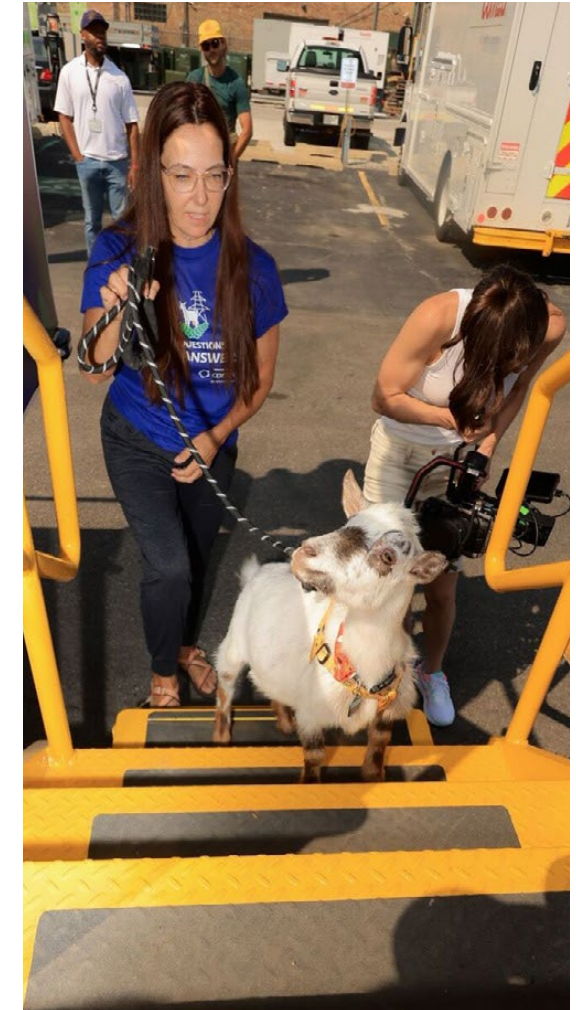


What a trip: Goats
get Chicago tour for
keeping power lines
free of vegetation



By: Carolina Garibay | August 29, 2023
Potential audience reach: 416.8k

- Goats toured Chicago and met their fans
- Received more than 100 print and broadcast stories in 29 states
- Nearly 3 million homes reached





Thank you

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