Shiretoko Nature Foundation

Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site Conservation Project (July–September 2017)

(1) Project to Restore the Rich Diversity of Shiretoko's Forests

There are 22 working roads in the 100m2 Movement Trust Area where forestation is being conducted, and in many places the roadbed has sunk and drainage is poor, hindering vehicle operation. During the reporting period, gravel was laid on three of these roads.

The largest deer fence in the work area is over 13 years old. The wooden posts currently supporting this fence are rotting, so a plan has been formulated to replace wooden posts with metal posts (approximately 300 posts) over the next 2–3 years. The work to replace these posts began in August and September, during which time 35 metal posts were installed.

Work road after gravel was laid down (July)

Installing metal fence posts (September)

From Friday, September 24th to Sunday, September 26th, Daikin Shiretoko volunteer activities were conducted for the eleventh time. Eleven volunteers repaired deer fences damaged by summer typhoons and bark protection nets inside the fences. They also helped with various forestation efforts, including weeding in seedling plots.

Broken deer fences (August)

Daikin volunteers doing repair work (September)

Weeding in seedling plots (September)

Daikin volunteers pose for a photo with the Shiretoko mountain range in the distance (September)

(2) Project to Protect and Pass on Shiretoko's Value as a World Heritage Site

In addition to regularly conducting lectures on Shiretoko's nature, history, forestation activities and their importance at the Shiretoko National Park Nature Center, we also conducted lectures and interactive learning activities for eight groups of local elementary, high school and college students totaling 284 people.

Lecture for Abashiri Chuo Elementary School students (August)

First year students from Shari Junior High School visiting the 100 square meter work area pose for a photo on a large Japanese Judas tree (September)

Summer is a season when weeds grow fast. When weeds grow into electrified fences that prevent bears from entering populated areas, electricity is lost and the efficacy of the fence is reduced. Once every 1–2 weeks, voltage checks are made on electrified fences, and in August, mowing was conducted throughout the entire area.

Also in August, three typhoons made landfall, resulting in landslides and rising rivers in areas where electrified fences are located. We checked the fences for damage and immediately repaired areas that were broken or had lost current. Furthermore, on September 9, the town

of Rausu was inundated with the largest rainfall ever recorded, causing widespread landslides. As of the end of September, there were still areas with road closures, making it impossible to confirm damage to electrified fences. Once the roads are open, we plan to check for damage and begin recovery work.

Electric fences destroyed by landslide

Landslide in the Kitahama district

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