

Related Plans, Studies, and Initiatives

Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Cooperative

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A number of high-level plans, studies, and initiatives related to Willamette Valley oak and prairie habitat have been completed or are underway and provide important background and direction for the development of the WVOPC Strategic Action Plan. These are listed below along with a web link (if available) along with a brief summary of its potential relationship to the WVOPC planning process. In addition to these valley- and region-wide efforts, there are an extensive number of site- or watershed-specific efforts that are too numerous to be listed here but may still be considered during the development of the Strategic Action Plan.

Table 1: Completed Plans, Studies, and Initiatives

Title, Author, and Date	Relationship to the Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Cooperative
<p><u><i>Prairie, Oaks, and People: A Conservation Business Plan to Revitalize the Prairie-Oak Habitats of the Pacific Northwest</i></u></p> <p>Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership and Pacific Birds, 2017</p>	<p>This conservation business plan for the broad area spanning from British Columbia to northern California is intended to showcase our vision for healthy and abundant populations of native prairie-oak plants and animals within the context of human needs and a changing climate. The vision for the business plan is to create an interconnected network of prairie-oak habitat that sustains native species across the region and provides ecological services for future generations. Supporting objectives are related to recovery population of 41 imperiled species and restoration and maintenance of habitats. This plan will provide a strategic framework that will help guide implementation of the WVOPC.</p>
<p><u><i>Willamette Valley Conservation Study – Strategic Habitat Conservation in Oregon’s Willamette Valley</i></u></p> <p>U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, March 2017</p>	<p>This USFWS study recommends that networks of grasslands, oak woodlands, and riparian habitats in specific areas of the Willamette Valley (subsets of Conservation Opportunity Areas identified by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) to be provided as safe and secure habitat to allow populations of sensitive native wildlife and plants space and time to recover. USFWS convened a Willamette Valley Strategic Conservation Management Team, comprising many conservation partners active in the Willamette Valley, to help development of the study. Mapping analysis used known occurrences of Western meadowlark, western bluebird, slender-billed nuthatch and cross referenced with the locations of remnant oak and prairie habitats to determine high value habitat patches. This underlying data will be a useful resource for development of the WVOPC Strategic Action Plan.</p>
<p><u><i>Oregon Conservation Strategy</i></u></p> <p>Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, 2016</p>	<p>The Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) was developed to provide statewide guidance on conservation priorities and values and identifies high priority target vegetation communities and species. High value conservation communities identified for the Willamette Valley include oak woodlands, grasslands (prairie and savanna), wetlands (including wet prairie), and flowing water/riparian. The OCS also lists high priority “Strategy Species” by habitat type and ecoregion including amphibians, birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, invertebrates, and plants and algae. Additionally, the OCS maps “Conservation Opportunity Areas” (COAs) which are places where broad fish and wildlife conservation goals would best be met. Focusing investments in these prioritized areas can increase the likelihood of long-term success for protecting Strategy habitats and species.</p>

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<p><i>A Conservation Concept Map for Yamhill County, Oregon</i></p> <p>Jeff Krueger, for the Yamhill Partners for Land and Water, September 2015 (uploaded to Base Camp)</p>	<p>This Conservation Concept Map is based on data provided by The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and various local park and recreation plans. Initial concepts were generated by the <i>Yamhill Partners for Land and Water</i> in a series of workshops held in 2014 (Yamhill County Conservation Feasibility Analysis, February 2014). Subsequently, Jeff Krueger worked with the Yamhill Partners to take previous work and create a Conservation Concept Map that depicted key concepts. The map calls-out some of the higher priority conservation opportunities (included oak/prairie) in the Yamhill County portion of the Willamette Valley Ecoregion. The Yamhill Partners are using the map to guide ongoing conservation efforts.</p>
<p><u>Conserving Nature's Stage: Identifying Resilient Terrestrial Landscapes in the Pacific Northwest</u></p> <p>The Nature Conservancy, February 2015</p>	<p>The goal of this project was to identify areas in the Pacific Northwest that are collectively and individually best suited to sustain native biodiversity, even as the changing climate alters current distribution patterns. The report represents the results of land facet mapping, and the calculation of local permeability, topoclimate diversity, and terrestrial landscape resilience across the entire 92 million hectare/11 ecoregion project area using uniform methods. Associated spatial data could be used by WVOPC to help map areas that may be more resilient in the face of climate change.</p>
<p><i>A Conservation Concept Map for the Mid-Willamette Valley</i></p> <p>Jeff Krueger for Greenbelt Land Trust, May 2014 (uploaded to Base Camp)</p>	<p>This Conservation Concept Map is the documentation of the results of a design charrette process that was hosted by Greenbelt Land Trust on May 16, 2014. The facilitated work-session included participation by numerous mid-Willamette Valley conservation partners and technical experts. The map depicts some of the higher priority conservation opportunities present in the mid-Willamette Valley portion of the Willamette Valley Ecoregion, an area of approximately 1.5 million acres. The map is conceptual and intended to help focus and coordinate future on-the-ground conservation efforts among various partners in the region.</p>
<p><i>Identifying Priority Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Habitat – Final Phase</i></p> <p>The Nature Conservancy (Ed Alverson), December 2011 (uploaded to Base Camp)</p>	<p>This analysis effort identified key oak-prairie parcels throughout the Willamette Valley ecoregion based on parcel size, historical vegetation, and existing vegetation derived through aerial photo interpretation. This report provides project background, description of methodology, and results. The data developed through this process could potentially be updated for the WVOPC planning process and used as a resource to help identify large high value oak-prairie parcels.</p>
<p><u>Recovery Plan for Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwest Washington</u></p> <p>USFWS, 2010</p>	<p>This Recovery Plan identifies actions to down-list or delist threatened and endangered oak (savanna) and prairie species including one butterfly and four plant species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fender's blue butterfly • Willamette daisy • Bradshaw's lomoatium • Kincaid's lupine • Nelson's checker-mallow <p>The Plan also provides conservation measures specific to the Willamette Valley for golden paintbrush (a threatened species for which a recovery plan was established in 2000) and addresses one candidate species and six non-listed species of conservation concern: Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, pale larkspur, Willamette Valley larkspur, peacock larkspur, shaggy horkelia, white-topped aster, and Hitchcock's blue-eyed grass.</p>

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<p data-bbox="105 136 547 199"><u>Strategic Conservation Management in Oregon's Willamette Valley</u></p> <p data-bbox="105 231 406 262">Surrogate Species Pilot 1.0</p> <p data-bbox="105 304 251 336">USFWS, 2014</p>	<p data-bbox="570 136 1518 325">The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is using Strategic Conservation Management and a surrogate species approach to conserve important landscape habitats in the Willamette Valley. This approach emphasizes the use of surrogate species to monitor, evaluate, and motivate landscape conservation in the Valley. The strategy builds on and seeks to expand existing conservation capacity of the Service and our valued partners.</p> <p data-bbox="570 367 1518 651">Under this approach, surrogate species such as Bradshaw's lomatium and Fender's blue butterfly, are umbrella species and will be used to provide direct insight regarding the status of other species on those landscapes. Some of our other surrogates, such as Oregon white oak, actually represent or determine the overall landscape habitat conditions. The selection of these habitats and surrogate species was conducted by a core team of representatives from USFWS, ODFW, and key conservation leaders from agencies and organizations working in the Valley. Biological objectives for each of the surrogate species, which in turn led to identification of priority conservation and monitoring actions.</p>
<p data-bbox="105 688 547 751"><u>Benton County Habitat Conservation Plan and Prairie Conservation Strategy</u></p> <p data-bbox="105 787 547 850">Institute for Applied Ecology for Benton County, December 2010</p>	<p data-bbox="570 688 1518 850">This strategy was developed as one of the Conservation Measures of a multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan funded by a USFWS grant to Benton County and also serves as a stand-alone reference document for prairie conservation, restoration, and management. Aspects of this Benton County focused plan can be expanded valley-wide.</p>
<p data-bbox="105 882 547 945"><u>Ridgeline Area Open Space Vision and Action Plan</u></p> <p data-bbox="105 976 479 1039">Lane Council of Governments and Partners, 2008</p>	<p data-bbox="570 882 1518 1176">This vision document was developed by multiple Rivers to Ridges partners, interest groups, and members of the public and provides a framework for future park and open space planning within the 20-mile Ridgeline corridor extending from Fern Ridge Reservoir to Mount Pisgah in the southern Willamette Valley (along south edge of the city of Eugene). This Vision Map identifies several large patches of oak-prairie dominated habitats as "Key Habitat Areas" and recommends targeted conservation and enhancement to be focused in these areas. The Vision Document includes a detailed set of implementation strategies related to conservation and management of oak-prairie habitat in the area.</p>
<p data-bbox="105 1207 430 1239"><u>Willamette Subbasin Plan</u></p> <p data-bbox="105 1281 430 1344">The Northwest Power and Conservation Council, 2004</p>	<p data-bbox="570 1207 1518 1438">This technical assessment of the Willamette Subbasin identifies focus species characterization and status for a range of habitats including oak woodland, oak savanna, upland prairie, and wetland prairie. The assessment sets basin-wide priorities and identifies limiting factors by subbasin (16 total). The information contained in this report has been used as to inform and support many of subsequent conservation planning efforts in the area including the 2006 version of the Oregon Conservation Strategy.</p>
<p data-bbox="105 1470 547 1533"><u>Rivers to Ridges Metropolitan Regional Park and Open Space Study</u></p> <p data-bbox="105 1554 479 1617">Lane Council of Governments and Partners, 2003</p>	<p data-bbox="570 1470 1518 1701">The <i>Rivers to Ridges</i> Vision was developed to provide a landscape scale framework for future park and open space planning in the Eugene-Springfield region and was endorsed unanimously by local elected officials. The vision identifies key open space anchors and connecting corridors. Preservation and connection of oak and prairie habitats is a key guiding principal of this vision document. A formalized Rivers to Ridges Partnership, which consists of 17 partner organizations, functions as the coordination body for habitat preservation efforts in the southern Willamette Valley.</p>

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<p data-bbox="110 142 414 172"><u>West Eugene Wetlands Plan</u></p> <p data-bbox="110 205 548 365"><i>Lane Council of Governments and City of Eugene, originally adopted by the Eugene City Council and the Lane County Board of Commissioners in 1992 (updated by City of Eugene in 2004)</i></p>	<p data-bbox="574 142 1515 489">This Plan was developed as an amendment to the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Plan to address the significant area of jurisdictional wetland that had been identified in Eugene’s primary industrial development area in the late 1980s. The Plan included and inventory and assessment of existing wetlands and policy direction for conservation, restoration, and development. The Plan spurred the acquisition of nearly 2,000 acres of wetland by Federal, State, local, and non-profit organizations. Additionally, the Plan resulted in the formation of the State’s first wetland mitigation bank with a goal of allowing the development of certain low-quality wetland areas and the creation and restoration of nearby wetlands to offset those losses. The West Eugene Wetlands, along with adjacent ODFW and Corps lands forms one of the most significant blocks of wetland and upland prairie habitat remaining in the valley.</p>

Table 2: Related Planning Efforts Now Underway

Title, Author, and Date	Relationship to the Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Cooperative
<p><i>East Cascades Oaks Partnership</i></p> <p>Funded November 2017 (FIP Capacity Building).</p> <p>Completion date estimated at 12/31/2019. Total project cost: \$187,000 (\$102,000 OWEB).</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Columbia Land Trust, USFS, Pacific Birds, ODFW, Wasco County Soil & Water Conservation District, Deschutes Land Trust, National Wild Turkey Federation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, WDFW, WDNR, Yamhill Nation, Underwood Conservation District</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Lindsay Cornelius lindsayc@columbialandtrust.org</p>	<p>The East Cascade Oaks Partnership’s goal is to develop an adaptive, strategic, collaborative, multi-scale Strategic Action Plan to guide conservation that will improve the pace, scale, and effectiveness of oak conservation efforts in the East Cascades Ecoregion. The SAP will identify the highest priority strategies and geographies for addressing limiting factors that affect the connectivity, extent, and ecological integrity of Oregon white oak habitats, and it will do so across jurisdictional boundaries that might otherwise constrain individual partners. The SAP will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation targets • Desired ecological and cultural outcomes • Threats and limiting factors, including knowledge gaps • Stakeholder engagement strategies • Inputs, strategies, actions and outcomes that address limiting factors and provide ecological lift, or halt or slow ecological decline of the conservation target • Conservation target map products (geographic prioritization for restoration and conservation efforts) and an East Cascade oak habitat classification system. • Prioritization of conservation actions. The plan will consider the inputs required to implement various strategies and the impact each strategy has to guide partners toward the most efficient, effective means of realizing desired ecological outcomes with limited resources. • Effectiveness monitoring and adaptive management strategy
<p><i>Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network (KSON)</i></p> <p>Funded November 2017 (FIP Capacity Building). OWEB funding: \$143,000 (\$100,000 OWEB).</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> USFS, BLM, NRCS, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Klamath Bird Observatory, USFWS, TNC</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Jaime Stephens jlh@klamathbird.org</p>	<p>A Strategic Action Plan will be developed in 2018/2019. KSON is a collaborative regional partnership with a mission “to conserve oak habitats on private and public lands in southern Oregon and northern California”. KSON works with the community and partners within the Klamath Siskiyou Bioregion to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the restoration and conservation of oak habitats • Provide a forum for education and community engagement on issues affecting oak plant communities • Encourage applied science, monitoring, and adaptive management in the restoration of oak habitats • Develop and promote best management practices for oak restoration • Integrate social, economic, and eco-cultural values in the understanding of oak plant communities • Form partnerships and alliances with organizations that share interests in habitat conservation and restoration of oak savanna, woodlands, and mixed forest <p>They will use Open Standards for Conservation approach in SAP development. The SAP will serve as a road map for oak habitat restoration actions and will establish short-, medium-, and long-term goals to achieve our ecological outcomes over the entire southern Oregon landscape.</p> <p>The plan will identify threats, conservation needs, a strategic framework for restoration actions, ecological outputs, and ecological outcomes. This will be used to prioritize geographies for restoration actions over the short (6 year), medium (12 year), and long (30 year) term.</p>

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<p><i>Oak Prairie Work Group Strategic Action Plan (OPWG SAP)</i></p> <p><i>Underway since 2015, with target completion date of 2018</i></p> <p>Contact: Janelle St. Pierre Janelle.St.Pierre@portlandoregon.gov</p>	<p>The Intertwine Alliance Oak Prairie Work Group (OPWG) formed in 2012 during the development of the Alliance's Regional Conservation Strategy for the Greater Portland-Vancouver Region to address the lack of a regional oak data necessary to improve conservation outcomes for imperiled Oregon white oak ecosystems. After an initial focus on oak mapping, the group broadened its work in 2015 to address stewardship, restoration, and education, with a focus on both native oak and prairie habitats. The OPWG includes nearly thirty agency, nonprofit, and community partners, and meets quarterly with additional project-specific committee meetings.</p> <p>This OPWG Strategic Action Plan addresses a need identified in the Regional Conservation Strategy and will guide the work of the OPWG partnership for the next ten years. It brings needed focus to our most imperiled lowland ecosystems, Pacific Northwest oak and prairie.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The WVOPC planning area will exclude the geography already covered by the Intertwine OPWG planning area which includes Metro Portland and surrounding lands.</p>
<p><i>Willamette Valley Species Recovery: Oak Habitat Assessment and Inventory</i></p> <p>U.S. Bureau of Management</p>	<p>Project is set to begin in Calendar Year 2018 and will focus primarily on BLM owned and managed lands.</p>
<p><i>McKenzie River Trust Conservation Plan</i></p> <p>MRT with assistance by Jeff Krueger, target completion date of 2018</p>	<p>The Conservation Plan takes a landscape scale look at the MRT 5.4 million-acre Service Area (which includes the southern Willamette valley) and defines Strategic Conservation Areas (SCAs) for targeted conservation over the next ten years. The Plan also includes target plant and animal species for oak and grassland habitats and a set of implementation strategies.</p>