Prairie, Oaks, and People | An investment strategy

Pacific Northwest Oak Alliance | Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership | PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT JOINT VENTURE

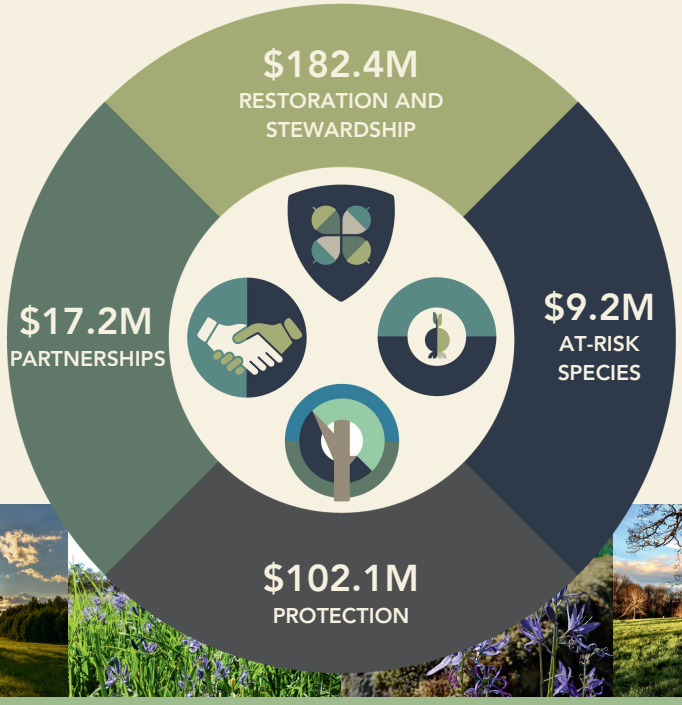


Oak and prairie ecosystems shape how people in the Pacific Northwest live, farm, and recreate, and they are among the most effective at reducing wildlife risk. Oaks take a century or more to regrow once lost, so restoring what remains cannot wait. We are working to build ecosystem and community resilience, reconnect people to oak and prairie, and integrate and advance Tribal and First Nations priorities.

IN 5 YEARS

RESTORE **60,000** ACRES

PROTECT **10,200** ACRES



IN 10 YEARS

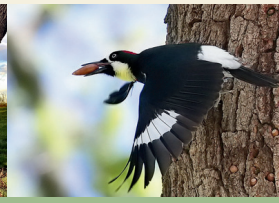
STABILIZE **23** AT-RISK POPULATIONS

REACH **+5,000** LANDOWNERS









Our Why
By the Numbers

While tremendous progress has been made, there is still work to do.

46 SPECIES THREATENED OR ENDANGERED

46 oak and prairie-associated species listed as Threatened or Endangered

23 priority species extirpated or near extirpated from at least one ecoregion in their historic ranges

23 EXTIRPATED SPECIES

>50 VULNERABLE SPECIES

50 more species are at risk of continued decline



See where your investment fits. Find opportunities to take action for oak and prairie.

Oak and prairie ecosystems are among the Pacific Northwest's most ecologically and culturally significant landscapes and they are disappearing fast. They are drought-tolerant, fire-adapted, and home to more than 300 vertebrate species. The Prairie, Oaks, and People Investment Strategy is a ready-to-implement, five-year plan: $310.9 million to protect 10,200 acres, restore 60,000 acres, stabilize 23 at-risk species, and reach more than 5,000 landowners. Tribes and First Nations, conservation groups, private landowners, and government agencies are already working together in a nonpartisan commitment to get it done.

WHY THIS MATTERS

- **Shovel-Ready Now:** Nine local partnerships have identified ready-to-implement projects that are identified as priorities by local communities. Your investment goes to the ground in year one.
- **Every Dollar Multiplies**: Landmark investments since 2020 have leveraged $1 in partner funding for every $1 invested. The Strategy is projected to generate $288M-$466M in regional economic output.
- **Jobs and Livelihoods**: This investment would result in 25 dedicated Tribal and partnership positions, plus thousands of jobs sustained annually across the restoration economy.
- **Reduced Wildfire Risk:** Restoring oak and prairie habitat removes the dense, dying Douglas-fir that fuels catastrophic fire. Every dollar spent on fuels treatment saves $3.75 to $6 in suppression costs.
- **Working Lands:** Landowners gain financial incentives for restoration and easements, along with healthier soil and water and better grazing. Research from Thurston County, Washington, shows that working lands easements on cattle operations increase farm-level output, tax revenue, and jobs.
- **Tribal and First Nations Leadership**: Investment supports land reacquisition, Tribal restoration crews, cultural fire, and access to first foods like camas and acorn.
- **Shared Priorities**: Wildfire risk reduction, rural economic development, infrastructure protection, and cultural heritage, all in one proven investment strategy.

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

You have a unique opportunity to champion the Prairie, Oaks, and People Investment Strategy by supporting funding, enacting legislation, and fostering cross-sector collaboration. By prioritizing oak and prairie ecosystems, you can help secure a future where biodiversity, stronger, more durable infrastructure, wildfire risk reduction, and community well-being coexist.

Partnerships are the backbone to this strategy and the mechanism to get work done.

- WHITE OAK REGION
- BLACK OAK REGION
- BOTH WHITE OAK & BLACK OAK REGIONS



Together, we are catalyzing proactive, voluntary, and community-led conservation.