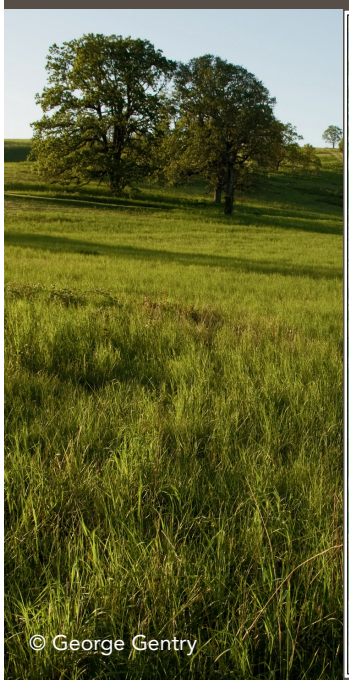
Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative

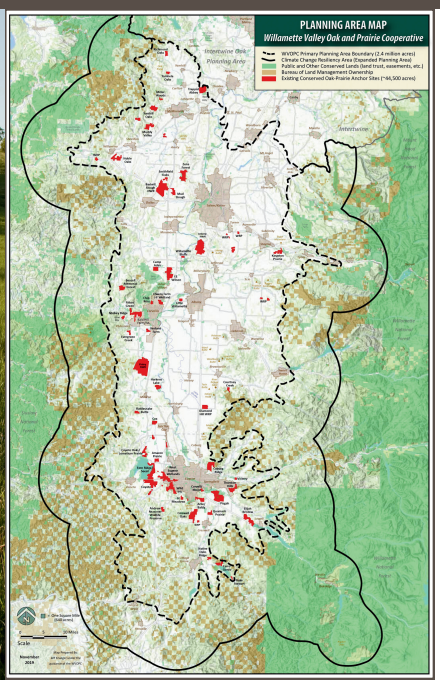
About the Partnership: The Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative (WVOPC) is an emerging partnership with a long-term vision to protect, restore, and maintain a functional, resilient network of oak and prairie habitats in the Valley through a strategic and coordinated approach that leverages resources, focuses on priority geographies and species, and produces substantial ecological returns. The Willamette Valley has sustained a mosaic of oak-prairie habitat for thousands of years through the deliberate stewardship of the Kalapuyan people. That tradition of active stewardship is the foundation upon which WVOPC builds its work.


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Meet the Partners:

Benton Soil & Water Conservation District, City of Eugene Parks and Open Space, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Ducks Unlimited, Greenbelt Land Trust, Institute for Applied Ecology, Long Tom Watershed Council, McKenzie River Trust, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District


© George Gentry



Conservation Impact: WVOPC accomplishments to date include ongoing implementation of the Willamette Valley Resilient Landscape Initiative. Funded by a $4.5M National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant, this initiative will restore 2,000 acres including 800 acres on Tribal lands.

WVOPC has also involved in the establishment of the Willamette Valley Conservation Area, which in 2024 officially became the nation's 572nd National Wildlife Refuge. Encompassing 22,640 acres, this the conservation area represents a significant step toward fulfilling WVOPC's mission.

Shovel-Ready WVOPC Projects Ready for Investment


© Abby Colehour

Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Resilience Initiative

Estimated Impact: 3,802 acres **Estimated Cost:** $14.9M

Over 5 years, WVOPC plans to restore priority oak habitat across 55 Anchor Sites and Core Conservation Areas. Treatments include removing woody encroachment and invasive weeds to prepare sites for prescribed and cultural fire, and applying alternative disturbance regimes where fire is not feasible. This Initiative will build fire capacity and center Indigenous-led stewardship to sustain this work.


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Oak Release at Anchor Sites & Core Conservation Areas

Estimated Impact: 502 acres **Estimated Cost:** $1.93M

At 6 Anchor Sites and 7 Core Conservation Areas, this project will promote the sustainability of legacy oaks and habitat by reducing hazardous fuels, woody encroachment, and invasive species while releasing oaks from density-dependent competition. Sites were chosen to maximize connectivity for oak-dependent species. Projects will be conducted by 6 WVOPC partner organizations.


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Fire as a Key Restoration Tool in the Willamette Valley

Estimated Impact: 706 acres **Estimated Cost:** $1.95M

This project will leverage and expand enthusiasm and capacity to incorporate fire as a restoration option into 18 WVOPC sites. This project will address the training, personnel, and regulatory challenges for using fire as a consistent and reliable restoration tool. Capacity is highest in the southern Willamette Valley, but through this project we will expand capacity throughout the entire Valley.

oakalliance.org/partners/wvopc

wvoakprairiecoop@gmail.com

WILLAMETTE VALLEY
OAK & PRAIRIE
COOPERATIVE