



Balsamroot
(*Balsamorhiza deltoidea*)

We're here to help

The Nature Conservancy is a global non-profit agency dedicated to the preservation and conservation of biodiversity. In your community, TNC actively works to conserve and restore prairies and oak woodlands. They are happy to answer questions and provide direction for your conservation and stewardship.

County Conservation Districts are a unique form of non-regulatory government that matches local resource needs with technical and financial resources, and helps landowners solve on-the-ground conservation needs. Each county in the state has their own conservation district, providing assistance to landowners in a variety of ways including: writing of conservation, management, and/or habitat plans for your property; assistance in enrolling your land in tax benefit programs; and help through the sometimes burdensome grant application processes.

Contacts

The Nature Conservancy: www.nature.org

County Conservation Districts:
find yours at: www.wacd.org

Land Trust Alliance: www.lta.org

Species Lists:

* National - www.fws.gov/endangered

* WA state - <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversity/soc/concern.htm>

US Fish and Wildlife Service: www.fws.gov

* Safe Harbor - <http://www.fws.gov/Endangered/listing/cca.pdf>

* Candidate Conservation Agreement - <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/recovery/harborqa.pdf>

* Partners Program - <http://ecos.fws.gov/partners/>

* Private Stewardship - http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/private_stewardship/index.html

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

* Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program - <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/WHIP07/index.html>

* Grassland Reserve Program - <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/>

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:

www.wdfw.wa.gov

* Landowner Incentive Program - http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/lands/lip/lip_fall06.pdf

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Conservation Resources for Prairie and Oak Woodland Landowners



Harsh Paintbrush
(*Castilleja hispida*)



Prairies in Need

The prairies and oak woodlands of the Pacific region are some of the most rare and beautiful habitats in North America. Preservation and restoration of these places is important for people as well as for the environment. Although there are several prairies preserved in public land, many of the last remaining prairies in our ecoregion occur on private lands, stewarded by our private citizens, farmers, and ranchers.

The most prevalent threats to prairie and oak woodlands are the conversion of open space grasslands from rural to urban land uses and the invasion of exotic vegetation such as Scotch broom and turf-forming grasses. These invasive plants out-compete native plants, creating an environment inhospitable to many species that depend on prairies and oak woodlands for survival.

This brochure presents conservation resources and incentives, including funding programs, tax benefits, and assurances available to private landowners.

Taylor's Checkerspot
(*Euphydryas editha taylori*)



Assurances

Safe Harbor Agreement

A Safe Harbor Agreement is a voluntary agreement between property owners and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to promote endangered species conservation on their lands and waters. This agreement offers assurances that voluntary management for these species by private landowners will exempt them from future restrictions.

Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances

Private property owners may face land use restrictions if species found on their lands become listed under the Endangered Species Act in the future. Like the Safe Harbor Agreement, the CCAA is a voluntary agreement between property owners and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to promote candidate species conservation on their lands and waters. USFWS can provide technical assistance in the development of these Agreements.



Streaked Horned Lark
(*Eremophila alpestris strigata*)



Nine-leaved Lomatium
(*Lomatium triternatum*)

Grassland Reserve Program

A voluntary program offering landowners the chance to protect, restore and enhance vulnerable lands while helping to maintain ranching operations. US Dept. of Agriculture directs financial resources and technical expertise to help landowners in these endeavors.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

WHIP provides financial incentives for landowners to develop habitat for fish and wildlife on their private lands. Participants agree to implement a wildlife habitat development plan and USDA agrees to provide cost-share assistance for the initial implementation of wildlife habitat development practices.

Private Stewardship Grants Program

The Private Stewardship Program provides grants and other assistance on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, candidate, or other at-risk species.

Landowner Incentive Program

A grant program designed to provide financial assistance to private landowners for the protection, enhancement or restoration of habitat (benefiting species at risk on privately owned lands). Funds are a direct appropriation from Congress, passed through the US Fish and Wildlife Service to state fish and wildlife agencies.

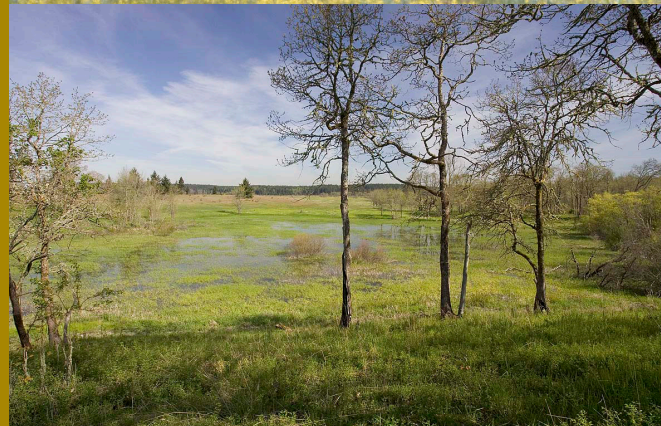
Partners for Fish & Wildlife

The Partners Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Tribes. The Partners Program can assist with projects in all habitat types that conserve or restore lands that provide important habitat for rare, declining, or protected species.

Funding



Black Bear
(*Ursus americanus*)



Western Bluebird
(*Sialia mexicana*)



Benefits

Current Use Taxation

Current Use Taxation programs offer a reduction in property taxes on private lands when the current open space amenities on these lands are thought to be a benefit to the community. One of the ways that the assessor's office makes these determinations is by using a Public Benefit Rating System. For more information contact your County Assessor's office.

Conservation Easements

Conservation easements protect land for future generations while allowing owners to retain many private property rights and to live on and use their land, at the same time potentially providing them with tax benefits. The easement is either voluntarily donated or sold by the landowner and constitutes a legally binding agreement that limits certain types of uses or prevents development from taking place on the land in perpetuity while the land remains in private hands. The Nature Conservancy, National Resources Conservation Service, and local land trusts offer these opportunities.