



Streaked Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*) | 2012 Action Plan Summary

The streaked horned lark is a small ground dwelling bird that is endemic to the Pacific Northwest. Small populations occur along Washington's coast, through the Puget lowlands, and on lower Columbia River islands, while the majority of the approximately 1,500 remaining individuals are found in the Willamette Valley. Relying on wide open spaces that have sparse vegetation, the streaked horned lark population has declined greatly with the loss of ideal habitat due to range contraction, land use conversion and the encroachment of woody vegetation. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has published a proposed rule to list the streaked horned lark as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Protection Status of the Streaked Horned Lark



State of WA
Endangered



State of OR
Species of Concern



Federal
Threatened*

* Proposed

CPOP and the Species-Specific Working Groups

The Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership (CPOP) is an ecoregional group that brings together conservation focused professionals that represent state, federal and local government, military, conservation groups and other entities interested in prairie-oak conservation. CPOP was created to increase coordination between these groups in order to promote conservation action, leverage funding, and expand recovery efforts. The streaked horned lark working group first convened in 2007 and meets annually to discuss and prioritize recovery actions.



What is an Action Plan and what is its purpose?

Each CPOP working group maintains an Action Plan, a document that lists the 'next best tasks' that can be taken to improve the status of the species and ranks the highest priority actions. Each year at the annual meeting the list is updated to reflect completed work, new opportunities and changes in urgency. The Action Plan is meant to encourage dialogue and consensus among the group as well as to inform entities that work with conservation policies and funding, such as US Fish and Wildlife Service, as to what actions are priorities to support the recovery of the streaked horned lark.

2012 Action Plan Ranked Priorities

Rank	Action to be taken
# 1	Secure long-term commitment for lark management on important occupied sites
# 2	Implement habitat restoration activities on breeding and wintering grounds
# 3	Determine factors limiting juvenile and adult survivorship in OR & WA (e.g. predation, air strike)
# 4	Conduct genetic rescue (egg-swapping) aiming at stabilizing South Sound population
# 5	As part of a long-term plan, systematically create lark habitat by directing dredge material deposition and implementing a complementary strategy to control structure-modifying vegetation
# 6	Determine the effect of habitat types on nest success, especially on private working lands
# 7	Finalize standardized survey and monitoring protocols range-wide that address abundance, trends and spatial distribution
# 8	Conduct a workshop for NRCS and SWCDs to disseminate lark information and brainstorm on how to implement programs
# 9	Implement habitat restoration activities on breeding ground using all available tools
# 10	Implement habitat restoration activities on breeding and wintering grounds on the Wa. coast
# 11	Maintain a working group and coordination
# 12	Evaluate appropriateness and feasibility of population augmentation, relocation or reintroduction
# 13	Evaluate the role of disturbances (e.g. recreation, military activities, industrial uses, agriculture) including interaction with predation, that affect survival in all life stages (e.g. nests, juveniles, adults)
# 14	Define and identify core sites for recovery

Threats

Although progress has been made, threats such as development and habitat degradation are still very real for the streaked horned lark. Continued efforts will be necessary to ensure their recovery and survival.



Recently Completed Actions

Since the first Action Plan was created in 2007, the following notable tasks have been completed or have made substantial progress:

- Several additional entities have been engaged in the coordinated effort to recover the streaked horned lark.
- An analysis of habitat distribution and change through time was conducted on Columbia River islands. Discussions have begun to translate this knowledge into a plan to systematically create lark habitat along the river using dredged material deposition.
- Nest enclosure research was implemented range-wide, aimed at protecting eggs and nestlings from predation.
- Oregon and Washington partners are working together to abate decline through a genetic rescue project, which swaps eggs from Oregon to increase lark genetic variability in south Puget Sound.
- New habitat restoration techniques were tested and applied.
- An integrated strategy to remove invasive plants is being implemented range-wide. These include bulldozing beach grass, prescribed fire and careful use of herbicides to remove structure modifying plants.
- Partners are tracking lark productivity and occupancy at many important sites.