



Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats: a Bi-State Partnership

Grant Applications for the Department of Interior State Wildlife Grants Program Funding

Executive Summary of Eligibility Criteria and Ranking Factors

Applicant Information: David Hays, Wildlife Program Wildlife Diversity Division
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Goals and Objectives: The project goal is to substantially improve the population status of 21 rare and/or declining Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that are highly associated with prairie-oak habitats of the Willamette Valley and Puget Trough regions of western Oregon and Washington, and thus reduce the likelihood of their need for consideration under the Endangered Species Act. This will be accomplished through four project objectives: 1) Implement habitat restoration/management actions on 25 high priority prairie-oak sites on public and private lands, improving 1074 acres of habitat to benefit 21 SGCN; 2) Inventory populations of Oregon vesper sparrow and Mazama pocket gopher to determine their distribution and status and conduct viability assessments of reintroduced and donor populations of western bluebirds in Washington to assess potential demographic factors limiting population growth to guide future population management; 3) Implement three discrete standardized monitoring strategies at 25 restoration sites to provide a consistent and repeatable framework for monitoring habitat conditions and populations of SGCN species and evaluating the effects of restoration activities; and 4) Manage project actions and facilitate a strategic, coordinated conservation community and an informed public through dedicated, professional leadership that results in raised public awareness, engaged partners, and increased conservation of prairie-oak habitats and SGCN.

Proposed Grant Time Period: June 2012 – May 2015

Amount of Funding Requested: \$974,664

Matching Funding: \$665,428 (41%) of non-federal funding sources

State(s)/ Partners Actively Involved in the Work: Washington and Oregon / Washington Dept. of Natural Resources, Benton County, Oregon Metro, Center for Natural Lands Management, American Bird Conservancy, Greenbelt Land Trust, Institute for Applied Ecology, San Juan County Land Bank, Weyerhaeuser, Wolf Haven International.

SGCN and Key Habitats Addressed: 21 SGCN (10 butterflies, 10 birds, and one mammal) including five SGCN (four birds and one butterfly) shared by both states, and two Strategy or Key Habitats shared by both states – prairie (grasslands) and oak habitats. Five of our SGCN carry federal status (one endangered, four candidates).

Summary Statement/Abstract: The project will provide critical bi-state multi-ecoregional coordination of numerous conservation activities for 21 prairie-oak SGCN including five federally listed species. Project outcomes will include habitat restoration by 10 partners on 1014 acres at 25 high priority sites including 504 acres on public lands and 510 acres on private lands; population status assessments for three SGCN that will be the basis for a determination of their appropriate conservation status and management, effectiveness monitoring plans for all 25 sites that will monitor SGCN populations and habitat conditions relative to restoration activities, and bi-state coordination of conservation activities essential to ensure efficiencies and effectiveness amid the high level of interest and activity by numerous partners in the prairie-oak ecosystem.

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Version 7/03

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application		2. DATE SUBMITTED 01/20/2012	Applicant Identifier 12-1021
☐ Construction	☐ Pre-application	3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE	State Application Identifier 12-1021
☒ Non-Construction	☐ Construction	4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY	Federal Identifier
☐ Non-Construction	☐ Pre-application		
5. APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Legal Name: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife		Organizational Unit:	
		Department: Wildlife	
Organizational DUNS: 80-888-3052		Division: Diversity	
Address:		Name and telephone number of person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code)	
Street: 1111 Washington St. SE, 5th Floor		Prefix: Mr.	First Name: David
City: Olympia		Middle Name W.	
County: Thurston		Last Name Hays	
State: WA	Zip Code 98501	Suffix:	
Country: USA		Email: haysdwh@dfw.wa.gov	
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 91-1632572		Phone Number (give area code) (360) 902-2366	Fax Number (give area code) (360) 902-2162
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION: ☒ New ☐ Continuation ☐ Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es) (See back of form for description of letters.) Other (specify) ☐ ☐		7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (See back of form for Application Types) A. State Other (specify)	
10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: 15-634		9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service	
TITLE (Name of Program): State Wildlife Grants		11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats: a Bi-State Strategy	
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (Cities, Counties, States, etc.): Western Washington and Oregon			
13. PROPOSED PROJECT		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:	
Start Date: 06/01/2012	Ending Date: 06/02/2015	a. Applicant 3	b. Project 3,6 WA; 3,4 OR
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:		16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?	
a. Federal	\$ 974,664.00	a. Yes. ☐ THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON	
b. Applicant	\$ 304,000.00	DATE:	
c. State	\$	b. No. ☒ PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E. O. 12372	
d. Local	\$ 85,400.00	☐ OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW	
e. Other	\$ 276,028.00	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?	
f. Program Income	\$	☐ Yes If "Yes" attach an explanation. ☒ No	
g. TOTAL	\$ 1,640,092.00		
18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.			
a. Authorized Representative			
Prefix Mr.	First Name Lee	Middle Name	
Last Name Rolle	Suffix		
b. Title Chief Financial Officer		c. Telephone Number (give area code) (360) 902-2424	
d. Signature of Authorized Representative 		e. Date Signed 1/23/2012	

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Approval No.: 0348-0044

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY						
Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non - Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non - Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. State Wildlife Grant	15.634	\$	\$	\$ 974,664.00	\$ 665,428.00	\$ 1,640,092.00
2.						0.00
3.						0.00
4.						0.00
5. Totals		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 974,664.00	\$ 665,428.00	\$ 1,640,092.00

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES					
6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
a. Personnel	\$	\$	\$ 474,249.00	\$ 273,876.00	\$ 748,125.00
b. Fringe Benefits			117,000.00	65,000.00	182,000.00
c. Travel			35,000.00	35,000.00	70,000.00
d. Equipment			40,000.00	40,000.00	80,000.00
e. Supplies			55,000.00	55,000.00	110,000.00
f. Contractual			80,521.00	70,000.00	150,521.00
g. Construction					0.00
h. Other					0.00
i. Total Direct Charge (sum of 6a-6h)	0.00	0.00	801,770.00	538,876.00	1,340,646.00
j. Indirect Charges			172,894.00	126,552.00	299,446.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 974,664.00	\$ 665,428.00	\$ 1,640,092.00

7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
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SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES

(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS
8. State Wildlife Grant	\$ 304,000.00	\$	\$ 361,428.00	\$ 665,428.00
9.				0.00
10.				0.00
11.				0.00
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8 - 11)	\$ 304,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 361,428.00	\$ 665,428.00

SECTION D - FORCASTED CASH NEEDS

	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ 80,000.00	\$	\$	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
14. NonFederal	80,000.00			20,000.00	60,000.00
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 120,000.00

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT

(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (Years)			
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16. State Wildlife Grant	\$ 417,332.00	\$ 417,332.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$
17.				
18.				
19.				
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)	\$ 417,332.00	\$ 417,332.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 0.00

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION

21. Direct Charges:	22. Indirect Charges: 23.51% on \$211,201 and 17.34% on \$763,463 of federal dollars
23. Remarks:	

Table 1. Scoring Criteria Evaluation Suggestion			
Evaluation Criteria	Pts.	Page / Section	Explanation
Organizational Capacity Criteria			
Coordination and Implementation			
1. Grant application describes how the applicant will coordinate all aspects of work including use of common procedures, data sharing, monitoring, and reporting with partners (0-3 points)	3	Obj.3, 4 Pgs. 10-12	The project has identified dedicated, professional staff experienced in landscape-scale projects to coordinate the conservation partners in standardized monitoring, reporting, and information sharing.
2. Grant application identifies dedicated staff or contractors readily available to implement work (0-3 points)	3	Table 3 Pg. 13	The entities involved with this ecoregional scale project have extensive expertise working to restore prairie-oak habitat of the PNW and include species experts experienced in conservation biology.
Federal Compliance			
3. Grant application describes specific Federal compliance issues that need to be addressed and what the State has done to address them to date. It is suggested that the applicant discuss each issue individually (0-3 points).	3	Pg. 11 Table 6 Pgs. 19	Likely Section 7 consultation requirements under the ESA (1973) relate to tree removal, herbicide application and planting during restoration. Phase 1 forms will be submitted to FWS once the grant is approved. Likely consultation under the NHPA (1966) relate to cultural resources. Other requirements of Federal Acts (e.g. NEPA) will be complied with during implementation of the grant.
4. Grant application describes how Federal compliance requirements can be addressed in a reasonable time and provides an estimated timeline (0-3 points)	3	Pg. 11	Most sites in this grant have been assessed as part of previous restoration projects. Federal compliance process is estimated to take no longer than 3 months and will be initiated upon award notification.
Match			
5a. Overall: For the total amount of match identified in the Budget and the AFA, the application identifies the percentage of non-Federal match (0-4 points)	4	Table 7 Pg. III, cover	There is 41% cash and in-kind support matched to the Federal request for this project. Total request is \$974,664 total match is \$665,428.
5b. Source: At least 30% of the non-Federal match comes from one or more partners and the match is well documented through a letter of commitment. (3 points).	3	Table 7 Pg. III SF424	\$361,428 (54%) of the non-federal match to implement this project is provided by public and private partners. Letters are attached.
Technical Criteria			
Need			
1. Grant application clearly describes the need(s) identified in each participating States' SWAP (0-3 points)	3	Pg. 3-4 Table 4 Pgs. 14-17	We have identified a collective 61 needed actions from the OR and WA State Wildlife Action plans that will be addressed in this project.
2. Grant application proposes that each partner (other than applicant) will implement priority conservation actions identified in the SWAPs. (3 points per partner, maximum of 15 points).	15	Table 6-7 Pg. 19, III-IV	There are ten partners (other than the applicant) implementing priority conservation actions in the SWAPs: WA Department of Natural Resources, Benton County, OR Metro, Center for Natural Land Management, Greenbelt Land Trust, American Bird Conservancy, San Juan County Land Bank, Institute for Applied Ecology, Weyerhaeuser, Wolf Haven.
3. Grant application directly targets improving the status of SGCN as described in each partners' SWAP (0-5 points).	5	Tables 4-5, Pgs. 14-18	The project directly targets improving the status of 21 SGCN through habitat restoration actions.

4. Grant application describes critical geographical location(s) to be improved for SGCN, why they are critical, and is a substantial effort to improve these areas (0-5 points)	5	Pg. 5 Tables 5-6, Pgs. 18-20, Fig 2, pg. II	All restoration projects occur on prairie-oak habitats at priority sites in the WPG ecoregion. These habitats and sites have been identified as critical to support the 21 SGCN addressed by this project
Objectives			
1. Objectives are distinct, obtainable, and quantifiable or verifiable (0-5 points).	5	Pgs. 4, 5-12.	The project will improve 1014 acres of prairie-oak habitat at 25 sites. Metrics for success are included in project descriptions (<i>Italicized</i>).
Expected Results and Benefits			
1. Grant application describes the connections between the proposed conservation actions and the expected short-term benefits to be achieved within a ten-year period (0-5 points).	5	Pgs. 4-5, Table 5, Pg. 19	Short-term benefits are increased suitable habitat, population inventories for three species, development and implementation of effectiveness monitoring plans, bi-state coordination, and public outreach
2. Grant application describes the connections between the proposed conservation actions and the expected long-term benefits to be achieved beyond ten years (0-5 points).	5	Pgs. 4-5	The cumulative/ long-term benefits will be enhanced populations and distributions of numerous SGCN at the project sites and throughout the region from enhanced regional activities stimulated by this project
Approach			
1. Grant application describes the specific types of conservation projects/actions that the States and its partners will conduct and provides adequate detail to understand how the States and its partners will implement the project/actions (0-6 points).	6	Table 6, Pgs. 19-20,5-12	The application fully describes tasks to be completed under each objective and indicates where those discrete actions will take place.
2. Projects/actions involve at least one partner from any one of the following entities: other State agencies in the same State as the applicant; other States; other country; Tribes; academic institutions, private landowners; non-governmental organizations; or Federal agencies other than the Service; (0-4 points)	4	Table 3 Table 7Pg 13, III-IV Support Letters	The project involves: WA State Partners – WA Department of Natural Resources; Oregon State Partners – OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, OR Dept. of Forestry, Benton County, OR Metro; Pvt – Sportsman’s Goose Club, Sequim, Weyerhaeuser; and NGOs – Center for Natural Land Management, Greenbelt Land Trust, American Bird Conservancy, San Juan County Land Bank, Institute for Applied Ecology, Wolf Haven;
3. Projects/actions are accomplished, in part, on private lands, including lands owned by individuals, private academic institutions, or non-governmental organizations. (0-5 points).	5	Table 6, pg. 19-20 Figure 2	51% of the acreage benefited by the restoration actions occurs on private lands.
4. Project actions are conducted on lands owned or managed by other State or local agencies (including academic institutions owned or managed by the State), Federal agencies other than the Service, or Tribes (0-4 points).	4	Table 6, pgs. 19-20	Project actions are implemented on lands owned by Washington Department of Natural Resources, Olympic National Forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Metro, Benton County, Thurston County, and San Juan County Land Bank
5. The grant application describes a monitoring plan that each participating State or partner will use to ensure SGCN and/or habitats are adequately monitored and evaluated to determine the effectiveness of conservation actions and provide for adaptive management (0-5 points).	5	Obj. 3 Pg. 10	25 site-specific monitoring plans (including protocols, design, timing etc) for the appropriate SGCN and their habitats will be developed that include, bird, butterfly, and habitat monitoring as described in the proposal.
6. The grant application describes how performance reports will clearly document monitoring results and how they will be used for adaptive management for improving future efforts (0-4 points).	4	Pg. 11	Performance reports prepared by the Project Manager will synthesize site-specific results with recommendations for adaptive management.

Need

Prairie-oak habitats of the Pacific Northwest are one of the most imperiled habitats in the United States (Noss et al 1997). The numbers are staggering: >90% loss of native prairie in the Puget Lowlands ecoregion with only 3% of the remainder dominated by native vegetation (Hall et al. 1995); >99% loss of native prairie and oak savannah in the Willamette Valley ecoregion (Hulse et al. 2002); and 95% loss of the oak ecosystem on southeast Vancouver Island (Lea 2002). Habitat loss to agricultural conversion and development, and habitat degradation due to fire suppression and invasive weeds are the primary historic and current threats to the prairie-oak system (ODFW 2006 pgs 280-281, WDFW 2005, pgs 324-325) (Table 4). Habitat restoration is a critical need for prairie-oak SGCN and is repeatedly highlighted in OR and WA SWAPs (see Table 4).

In the Pacific Northwest, prairie-oak habitat is ecologically contained in the Willamette Valley–Puget Trough–Georgia Basin ecoregions (WPG) of western Oregon and Washington and southwestern British Columbia. The WPG supports a large suite of unique flora and fauna associated with relatively dry, open habitats amid a landscape dominated by dense coniferous rainforests (Franklin and Dyrness 1973). Thus, prairie-oak ecosystems are major repositories of regional biodiversity, including many obligate or near-obligate species that are now considered rare or endangered (Ewing 1997, Hanna and Dunn 1997). Many of these rare and declining species are identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in both Oregon and Washington’s State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) (Tables 4 and 5). Additionally, both SWAPs identify prairie-oak habitats as Strategy Habitats (WDFW 2005 p. 317, ODFW 2006 p. 244-253).

The consequences of prairie-oak habitat loss and degradation to the numerous obligate or near-obligate associated species has resulted in a sense of urgency for their conservation. One of our 21 SGCN is already a Federally Endangered species (Fender’s blue butterfly) and four others (Taylor’s checkerspot, streaked horned lark, Mazama pocket gopher, and Mardon blue skipper) are currently Federal Candidate species on a fast-track for ESA listing determination by September 2012. Many of these SGCN have populations at or nearing critical levels for population maintenance, and have experienced numerous local extirpations. For example, among birds streaked horned lark has been extirpated from approximately 80% of its former range with a population now estimated to be less than 2,000 birds (Altman 2011), primarily in the Willamette Valley with scattered small populations in the Puget lowlands. The Oregon vesper sparrow population estimate is less than 3,000 birds and slender-billed white-breasted nuthatch has been extirpated from the Puget Lowlands ecoregion. Among butterflies, Taylor’s checkerspot was historically found at over 70 sites from British Columbia to Oregon, and now occur on only 10 sites (Stinson 2005).

Over the past several years, focus on prairie-oak conservation has amplified significantly in scope and complexity. What was once primarily invasive species control now includes increasingly complex actions such as habitat restoration in preparation for rare species reintroductions and translocations. These actions are conducted by a wide array of conservation partners, however, the coordination of these actions remains drastically under-supported. The need for cooperative partnerships across geographic and jurisdictional borders is critical with issues related to recovery of rare species and management of their habitat. Oregon’s SWAP

expresses “institutional barriers to voluntary conservation” as one of its six key conservation issues and proposes that it be remedied, in part, by the improvement of “data management, coordination, and sharing between various conservation partners (ODFW 2006 pg 64). By approaching recovery at the broad regional scale and engaging all relevant entities, the likelihood of successful conservation outcomes is dramatically improved. This approach supports the recommendation in both SWAPs for cooperative ecoregional actions (WDFW 2005, pg 251; ODFW 2006 pg 36) (Table 4).

Goals and Objectives

Goal: The project goal is to substantially improve the population status of 21 rare and/or declining SGCN that are highly associated with prairie-oak habitats of the Willamette Valley and Puget Trough ecoregions of western Oregon and Washington, and thus reduce the likelihood of their need for consideration under the Endangered Species Act.

Objectives: 1) Implement SWAP habitat restoration/management actions on 25 high priority prairie-oak sites on public and private lands, improving 1014 acres of habitat to benefit 21 SGCN; 2) Determine the population status and distribution of Oregon vesper sparrow and Mazama pocket gopher, and conduct viability assessments of reintroduced and donor populations of western bluebirds in Washington to assess conservation status and potential demographic factors limiting population growth to guide future population management; 3) Implement 3 discrete standardized monitoring strategies at 25 restoration sites to provide a consistent and repeatable framework for monitoring habitat conditions and populations of SGCN species and evaluating the effects of restoration activities; and 4) Manage project actions and facilitate a strategic, coordinated conservation community and an informed public through dedicated, professional leadership that results in raised public awareness, engaged partners, and increased conservation action to prairie-oak habitats and SGCN.

Expected Results and Benefits

This project will provide direct benefits to the conservation of 10 bird, 10 butterfly, and 1 mammal SGCN in Washington and Oregon, including five species (four birds and a butterfly) that are shared SGCN in both states, and an additional 16 species (six birds, nine butterflies, one mammal) that are SGCN in one of the two states (Table 5). Five of our SGCN have Federal status (1 endangered, 4 candidates). Short-term (i.e., next 10 years) conservation benefits for the SGCN will be accrued through the following project results: 1) enhanced and increased suitable habitat at 25 high priority sites covering 1014 acres including 504 acres on private lands and 510 acres on public lands (Table 6), 2) a population inventory for Oregon vesper sparrow and Mazama pocket gopher which will determine their distribution and population status and contribute to potential listing decisions at the state and/or federal level, 3) a viability assessment of reintroduced and donor populations of western bluebird in Washington to assess potential demographic factors limiting population growth and guide future management, 4) effectiveness monitoring plans for all 25 restoration sites that will provide a consistent and repeatable framework for monitoring SGCN populations and habitat conditions relative to restoration activities, 6) bi-state coordination of partners to ensure efficiencies and effectiveness of conservation activities in the prairie-oak ecosystem.

The cumulative and long-term (i.e., beyond 10 years) conservation benefits of this project will be enhanced populations and distributions of numerous SGCN not only at the project sites but throughout the region from enhanced regional conservation activities resulting from and stimulated by this project. This will occur primarily as a result of the facilitated and supported coordination of regional conservation activities such as species-specific working groups and initiation of a weed management area. Our active local outreach at select project sites including field tours and interpretive signs will enhance recognition and interest in prairie-oak conservation and leverage our activities. Lastly, the ultimate long-term benefit of this project will be the ability of State and Federal agencies to keep numerous SGCN off endangered species lists.

Strategic Habitat Conservation

Site selection was designed to include most of the highest priority sites for prairie-oak conservation in Oregon and Washington to maximize opportunities for conservation of shared SGCN, and secondarily local SGCN, within the context of a strategic habitat conservation framework. Eighteen of the project sites fall within Priority Conservation Areas in the WPG regional plan developed by The Nature Conservancy (Floberg et al. 2004). All the Willamette Valley sites except Willamette Narrows are designated as Conservation Opportunity Areas in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (i.e., WV 11, 19, and 22, ODFW 2006 pgs. 248, 250, 251), and South Puget Sound sites represent the vast majority of prairie-oak sites outside Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Many of the sites are protected for conservation values, and also support SGCN populations, making them the highest priorities for restoration to enhance those core SGCN populations for future expansion. Further, several project sites were selected because they are adjacent to or in close proximity to the protected sites with strong SGCN populations and provide good opportunities for habitat restoration and SGCN population expansion. Examples include the private land Smith/Westbrook site adjacent to Baskett Slough NWR and the Sportsman's Club next to Finley NWR (Figure 2).

Our priority sites also support some of the largest or most important populations of SGCN. The project includes 9 of the 10 known extant Taylor's checkerspot sites in its range, and Washington butterfly SGCN are addressed at virtually all South Puget Sound restoration sites. Among bird species, the Smith/Westbrook/Baskett Slough sites and the Sportsman's Club site support the two largest populations of western meadowlark in the Willamette Valley. The Mima Mounds site supports the second largest population of Oregon vesper sparrow in Washington, and the Smith/Westbrook/Baskett Slough site has among the regions strongest populations of streaked horned lark. The 25 project site locations are shown in Figure 2. Table 6 provides information on each site including ecoregion, site ownership, habitat type, habitat quality, restoration actions and federal compliance status.

Approach

Objective 1. Implement SWAP habitat restoration/management actions on 25 high priority prairie-oak sites on public and private lands in western Oregon and Washington, improving 1014 acres of habitat to benefit 21 SGCN.

Habitat restoration and management actions are designed to meet both species and ecological needs at the site scale. Plans have been developed for each site, outlining specific actions needed

to improve habitat for SGCN. For many sites, planning has been a collaborative effort, with regional working groups providing the framework for site plans. For example, regional collaborative research efforts that span the Willamette Valley and Puget Trough (see Stanley et al. 2010) have led to common approaches to weed control, expanding plant species diversity and increases in the overall abundance of native species. Restoration and management actions are outlined below and summarized in Table 6. Table 5 outlines project locations and lists the SGCN that will benefit from the actions. Treatments are usually combined in management units to provide significant habitat improvement. For example, South Puget Sound management areas for grassland butterflies Taylor's checkerspot and mardon skipper are burned, sprayed with herbicide to control exotics, seeded with natives, and planted with larval host plants, all within a few months each fall.

Native Seed Collection: Seed collection is the first step in enhancing plant diversity, improving overall habitat quality, and providing key resources for bird and butterfly SGCN. The availability of native seed is a dominant limiting factor in habitat restoration. Native seeds will be collected from multiple sites, then used for growing plugs for transplanting, seed development (nursery) projects, or sown directly into prepared soils. Seeds will be collected annually to increase the source diversity and renew propagation stock. Collective resource coordination in seed collection will vastly increase efficiency and available seed resources for partners. Seeds will be brought to one location for storage and propagation. Seed collection will occur between late May and November.

Native Plant Production: Production of native plants will occur both as plugs to provide specific benefits for specific SGCN species (Mardon skipper nectar plants, for example), and to provide large amounts of native seed for direct seeding. The project provides resources to continue development of seed production for large-scale restoration projects. Existing nurseries in Oregon and Washington will be used to produce seed and transplants. Year-round nursery activities will include direct seeding, fertilization, watering, weeding and/or tarping to reduce weeds, seed harvest, drying, seed cleaning and weighing.

Planting Natives: Native species plantings will occur at many of the sites that have been prepared with prescribed fire, herbicide application, or tree/shrub removal. Foodplants of Taylor's checkerspot larvae, for example, will be grown and planted out as plugs for this project. These species will include Indian paintbrush, Plantain, wild strawberry and narrow-leaved lomatium. Results of current plug monitoring projects will inform planting specifications.

Direct seeding will be used in larger scale applications after sites are prepared with prescribed fire and/or herbicide application. Seeds will be either drilled or scattered in early to late fall, depending upon the plant species sown. Seeds will be sown both individually and combined with seeds of other species. Seed cast on the soil surface will be often raked to cover seed. Herbicides will be applied prior to seeding, after seeding, and after seed germination. Results of current research efforts evaluating seeding methods will be applied immediately in the project.

Tree and Shrub Removal: Removal of invasive trees and shrubs is a critical component of prairie-oak restoration. Historically oak stands in western Washington and Oregon had a sparse overstory and an understory dominated by fire-tolerant grasses and shrubs. Post-settlement fire

suppression resulted in the spread of conifers and competition between conifers and oaks. Conifers cause mortality of oaks through excessive shading. Tree removal (usually conifers) will improve oak survival and growth. A number of research studies and publications have been written providing guidance in managing oak stands (e.g., Vesely and Tucker 2004). Conifers also can spread into grasslands. Some of our tree removal projects will have both an oak protection/enhancement component and a grassland protection/enhancement component.

Tree and shrub removal will be a component of prairie restoration and butterfly SGCN enhancement projects. For the latter, the goal will be to improve growth and development of butterfly larval hostplants and foodplants, and allow butterflies access to these species. Both native and exotic shrubs will be removed. Tree and shrub removal is a critical habitat management action needed for Taylor's checkerspot on 5 of 6 Olympic Peninsula sites. The November 2011 USFWS action plan lists the reduction of trees and shrubs as a high priority, second only to land acquisition. Tree and shrub removal in prairie habitats can provide immediate habitat benefits for prairie SGCN such as western meadowlark and streaked horned lark where landscape conditions are suitable (i.e., very open landscapes). In oak habitats, tree removal allows for more open-growth oak trees which support increased branching and long-term cavity-development for species like slender-billed white-breasted nuthatch. Shrub removal in oak habitats provides immediate habitat benefits for chipping sparrow which favors open grassy understories.

Weed Control: Aggressive control of invasive plant species is a high priority for managers of prairie- oak habitats. The primary biological threat is the establishment of non-native invasive plant species, which can modify the composition and structure of the landscape, degrading prairie-oak habitat and displacing native vegetation. Invasive plant species rapidly proliferate and have the ability to create dense monocultures that exclude birds and butterflies that rely on native vegetation for survival. Weed control methods that will be employed include mechanical (e.g. mowing, brushcutting), chemical, and prescribed fire. Most invasives will be controlled using integrated strategies of several different management techniques, combined with seeding and planting of natives to improve habitat quality after weed control.

Weed control in degraded prairie habitats can provide short and long term benefits for several bird SGCN such as streaked horned lark and western meadowlark by reducing coverage of plant monocultures that reduce structural diversity for nesting sites and insect forage diversity. In south Puget Sound, Scot's broom and exotic grasses exclude rare butterflies such as the Mardon skipper and Taylor's checkerspot. Areas with dense Scot's broom exclude Mazama pocket gopher.

Prescribed Fire: In recent years, prescribed fire has become an integral management tool for enhancing native grassland species, restoring natural ecological processes, control invasives, and prepare soil for direct seeding and planting (Stanley et al 2010). Prescribed fire in prairie habitats can provide immediate and short-term habitat suitability for streaked horned lark and Taylor's checkerspot by reducing vegetative cover and exposing more bare ground. Fire also reduces litter and moss, providing a suitable environment for seed germination. Within weeks of prescribed fires, herbicides are used to control the flush of re-sprouting exotics, reducing weed competition in the establishment (through planting or seeding) of natives. Prescribed fire will be conducted in late summer and early fall. Prescribed fire units will vary in size, from 1 to over 100 acres.

Staffing of prescribed fires will be provided by all partners, with the assistance of local fire prevention agencies, and closely coordinated to effectively utilize scarce resources. Exemptions for ecological burns are provided upon approval of fire management plans by regulatory agencies.

Objective 2. Inventory populations of Oregon vesper sparrow and Mazama pocket gopher to determine their distribution and population status and conduct viability assessments of reintroduced and donor populations of western bluebirds in Washington to assess potential demographic factors limiting population growth to guide future population management.

Oregon Vesper Sparrow Population Survey: Historically, Oregon vesper sparrow was a relatively common species throughout its range. Recent limited data along with anecdotal information from a variety of sources indicate significant population declines and local extirpations. There has been no range-wide systematic survey to determine the distribution and status of populations of Oregon vesper sparrow. This has been identified as a need in both SWAPs (WDFW 2005, pgs. 153, 335; ODFW 2005, page108) (Table 4). Oregon vesper sparrow is a candidate for listing in Washington State, and a Bird of Conservation Concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Population, distribution, and habitat relationships data is needed to assess the need for further consideration of protection status and to strategize for its conservation.

Range-wide surveys will target suitable prairie and oak savannah habitats along roadsides and in accessible off-road public and private lands. Existing databases with occurrence records will be reviewed to identify known locations of birds and assist in the planning of the new surveys. Roadside surveys will use a modified Breeding Bird Survey protocol. Point count stations will be established based on occurrence records and reconnaissance of suitable habitat in winter/spring 2013, and be at least 0.3 mi apart on secondary and tertiary roads. Each station will be visited once in May 2013 and once in June, 2013. Five minute counts will be conducted and the distance to each Oregon vesper sparrow will be estimated to the nearest meter to determine detection probabilities and estimate densities.

Off-road surveys will be conducted opportunistically in suitable habitat on accessible public and private lands. Point-transects (combination of point counts and transects) will be used to maximize coverage of the area and increase the likelihood of detecting birds. Data collection (e.g., point count duration, distance estimation) will be the same as the roadside surveys. *Overall, we will survey at least 700 point count stations covering approximately 7,000 acres or 100 miles of roadside habitat, and at least 3,000 acres of suitable habitat on off-road accessible public and private lands.*

In addition to the surveys, reported sightings on birding list serves and from agency/organization biologists during the 2013 breeding season will be visited to confirm and collect habitat information. Habitat data collected at roadside point counts and incidental records without public access will be classified to a particular habitat type (e.g., pasture, agricultural production field, semi-native prairie). On public and private lands, habitat data collection will include measurements of multiple habitat variables of vegetation species composition and conditions.

Mazama Pocket Gopher Population Survey: Determining the geographic distribution, site features, and relative extent of the occurrence of Mazama pocket gophers, is an important conservation action needed for this federal candidate and state-threatened species. It is integral for identifying the highest priorities for protection of extant populations, and will benefit a number of ongoing conservation and land planning efforts. Research staff will design the survey strategy to reflect a broad spectrum of geography and site characteristics, (e.g. soils, land cover, relief) that could be included using spatial analysis. Surveys will be conducted for two years by WDFW staff during August through October, 2012 and 2013. Surveys will focus on both public and private lands and will include outreach to private landowners to obtain access for surveys. Survey results will identify new pocket gopher locations and will form the basis to identify important new sites for protection priorities. *Outcomes of this effort include 1) a rigorous and representative survey protocol to detect and evaluate current distribution and site characteristics of Mazama pocket gopher occurrence, 2) methodical, sequentially implemented surveys using WDFW-designed survey protocols, 3) written, illustrated report of survey outcomes with ecological interpretations and recommendations regarding protection priorities and conservation targets in the focus area, and 4) a list of areas for more extensive survey, to expand understanding of species distribution*

Viability Assessment for Reintroduced and Donor Western Bluebird Populations: The San Juan Islands Western Bluebird Reintroduction Project completed five years of translocations during the 2011 breeding season. There have been annual increases in the number of returning birds and the size of the nesting population, with 14 breeding pairs fledging 74 young in 2011. A critical component of this and any reintroduction project is an assessment of the viability of the population once translocations have been completed, and to identify any demographic limiting factors (e.g., productivity, survivorship, recruitment) to guide future population management. Further, the reintroduction and donor sites (San Juan Islands and South Puget Sound, respectively) comprise nearly all the population of western bluebirds in the Puget Lowlands ecoregion, which has been recognized for potential listing status (WDFW 2005, p. 150) (Table 4). To assess the viability and status of these populations, we will conduct intensive monitoring of returning birds reproductive outputs on San Juan Island (reintroduced population), and compare the results with the established population in the South Puget Sound (donor population). *We will monitor return rates and recruitment for at least 200 birds, and the reproductive outcomes of at least 100 nesting pairs to assess the demography and viability of the reintroduced population relative to the donor reference population, and identify any demographic limiting factors to guide future population management.*

At each nesting territory, individuals will be identified and nesting status monitored throughout the nesting season. A two-way ANOVA will be used to compare clutch initiation date, clutch size, and productivity (young fledged/nest) between the reintroduced and reference donor population. We will determine apparent survival from color-band histories in the reintroduced population using program MARK to compare with published studies of Western Bluebirds. We will use chi-square tests to compare adult and juvenile return rates between the reintroduced and reference donor population. Similar return rates and reproductive output between populations will be viewed as a measure of reintroduction success and population viability.

Objective 3. Implement three discrete standardized monitoring strategies at 25 restoration sites to provide a consistent and repeatable framework for monitoring habitat conditions and populations of SGCN species and evaluating the effects of restoration activities.

Regional monitoring plans are outlined below. Each provide a consistent framework for data collection, assimilation, and interpretation. Monitoring will include one season of pre-treatment baseline data and two seasons of post-treatment effectiveness monitoring. Habitat monitoring will be conducted at all sites, but SGCN monitoring will be conducted only at those sites where the species is a SGCN for that state. Lead entities for development of the regional plans will be American Bird Conservancy for birds, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for butterflies and Center for Natural Lands Management for habitat management

Habitat Monitoring: We will use a level 2 qualitative Ecological Integrity Assessment (EIA) developed by NatureServe and National Heritage Network as our habitat monitoring protocol. The Washington Natural Heritage Program has developed an EIA specifically for the Willamette prairies that can be applied consistently among all sites. We will modify the EIA to add species specific monitoring criteria to monitor variables like a) numbers of Mazama Pocket gopher mounds, b) larval foodplants for rare butterflies, and c) unique habitat characteristics for other SGCN. *A level 2 qualitative EIA will be conducted on at least 1014 acres during the project.*

Bird Monitoring: SGCN bird populations at restoration sites will be assessed through standard point count and area search surveys that will provide the metrics of species occurrence and indices of abundance over three visits during the breeding season. Sampling design will emphasize complete coverage of the restoration footprint and immediately adjacent similar habitat. Monitoring will include a pre-treatment baseline survey (either from previous ongoing monitoring at a site or a survey in 2013) and two seasons of post-treatment surveys. The ecology of two bird SGCN, Short-eared Owl and Common Nighthawk, precludes an assessment of their populations through standard surveys, so dusk area search surveys will be conducted during three visits in the breeding season. *Overall, we will conduct pre and post-treatment bird monitoring on at least 973 acres of prairie and oak habitat at 19 sites for 10 SGCN bird species.*

Butterfly Monitoring: SGCN butterfly monitoring will focus on the vicinity of proposed treatment areas. Pre-treatment surveys will include butterfly presence by species and behavior (nectaring, feeding, egg-laying, puddling, courtship, and territorial behaviors, flying through) Pre-treatment data will immediately be utilized to refine the footprint of proposed management patches. Post-treatment, surveys for SGCN butterflies will be repeated for two years. We will not be using presence/use results to compare restoration unit treatment efficacy – treatments will not be conducted and unit locations not selected for that purpose. Our goal is to determine if SGCN butterflies in this landscape are responding to a suite of restoration actions that have been designed to enhance and create habitat for them. We expect to see differences in presence and use among restoration units based on local butterfly abundance and proximity to extant populations. For each management unit we will report the number of SGCN butterflies by species before and after treatments, and types of use (based on behavior). *Outcomes include at least 760 acres of pre and post treatment butterfly surveys for at least 10 SGCN butterfly species.*

Objective 4. Manage project actions and facilitate a strategic, coordinated conservation community and an informed public through dedicated, professional leadership that results in raised public awareness, engaged partners, and increased conservation action to prairie-oak habitats and associated SGCN.

Project Management: A complex project such as this one requires dedicated leadership to ensure all aspects of the project are well communicated and coordinated among the diverse array of partners, sites, and species. Center for Natural Lands Management, in coordination with WDFW, will provide staff experienced in landscape-scale, regional project management to ensure that the project is conducted collaboratively. The project manager will disseminate all appropriate information to the partnership to maximize conservation actions and inform adaptive management cycles.

The project manager will compile existing federal compliance documents and facilitate the compliance process with sites that have not been reviewed to ensure appropriate statutes (e.g., ESA, NEPA, NHPA) are addressed immediately after funding notification. We expect this to take no longer than 3 months. For Section 7 consultations, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administrative contacts for each federal candidate species have already been identified and reviews have been conducted at some sites (Table 6). USFWS will assist the project manager and proponent with Section 7 and/or other consultations and NEPA documentation. The WDFW State Environmental Policy Act coordinator will assist with NEPA reviews, providing the necessary procedures for conducting the reviews. Cultural and archeology reviews will be needed at some sites for some projects for National Historic Preservation Act compliance, in consultation with each state's Department of Archeological and Historic Preservation.

The project manager will work collaboratively with the monitoring plan leaders to ensure that the monitoring strategies are implemented appropriately. Performance reporting will be streamlined by the generation of well designed report templates that are integrated into a comprehensive and concise Federal Performance Report by the project manager.

Ecoregional Coordination: Species-specific Working Groups: Species-specific workshops and working groups are extremely viable strategies for creating a recovery network that is empowered to both identify and implement priority actions. They provide a formal venue to engage all relevant entities and distinguish shared goals and share information, which often result in synergies and increased efficiency. Species-specific working groups initiated in this project will benefit from the conservation momentum and experience generated through the existing Regional Streaked Horned Lark, Taylor's Checkerspot, and Mazama Pocket Gopher Working Groups, coordinated by the Project Manager for this project. We will maintain the existing groups and leverage the success of these to initiate other species-specific working groups as appropriate (e.g. Oregon vesper sparrow, streaked horned lark and agricultural landowners). We will actively facilitate the success of partners, from supplying necessary information, contacts, and expertise to providing assistance to acquire resources to implement priority conservation actions. *Our metric of success will be to document the number of entities engaged, and report the species benefit by number of new projects that directly benefit our SGCN.*

Weed Management Area: Weeds are one of the most imminent threats to prairie-oak habitats and SGCN. Addressing invasive species, and specifically using a regional, partnership-driven approach, is repeatedly called for in both states SWAPs (WDFW 2005, pgs. 297, 337, 340; ODFW 2005, pgs. 272, 273, 281; see Table 4). Initiation of a formal Weed Management Area (WMA) will improve the efficacy of our collective efforts to control invasive species by sharing best management practices as new information becomes available, understanding distribution of shared target weeds, and developing and guiding strategic control. We will initiate a weed management area for the grasslands of western Washington and Oregon and will host at least 3 meetings of the newly forming WMA. Development of the WMA will result in efficient control of target weeds in priority habitats. *Our metric of success will be the numbers of partnering entities engaged and the collective number of prairie-oak habitat acres consequently addressed with up-to-date techniques and information.*

Public Outreach: The WPG ecoregion not only holds the rare prairies and oak woodlands of the Pacific Northwest, it also hosts the major population centers of Oregon and Washington (Floberg et al. 2004). A large amount of unprotected habitat occurs on either private land or on public land where public recreation is offered. Public education is an essential component to ensure that visitors to public sites are not causing negative impact and that the potential for private habitats to benefit SGCN species is maximized. Outreach to the public for prairie habitats and for Mazama Pocket Gopher is specifically delineated in the WA SWAP (WDFW 2005, pgs. 70-1, 297-8).

We will develop signs for at least 4 key sites with high public access to 1) explain the biological importance of native grasslands and oak woodlands, 2) describe some of the key wildlife species associated with these habitats, 3) explain habitat restoration objectives and techniques, 4) outline a few key ways that visitors can help protect the sites and species. We will also conduct at least 8 tours of restoration activities at 4 sites highlighting those aspects. *With these techniques we expect to reach an audience of approximately 4000 members of the public each year.*

This complex project involves a large suite of sites and actions (Tables 4-6). Table 2 outlines the timeline when those actions would occur through the duration of the project.

Actions	2012			2013				2014				2015	
	SU	F	W	SP	SU	F	W	SP	SU	F	W	SP	SU
Federal Compliance													
Develop Monitoring Plans													
Pre-Treatment Monitoring													
Seed Collection													
Seed and Transplant Propagation													
Weed Control													
Prescribed Fire													
Seeding/Planting													
Tree and Shrub Removal													
Post-Treatment Monitoring													
Oregon Vesper Sparrow Surveys													
Bluebird Viability Assessment													
Pocket Gopher Surveys													
Working Groups and WMA													
Annual and Final Reports													

Personnel and Organizational Capacity

This project will be implemented by a wide variety of partnering entities with qualified staff, each with considerable expertise and experience working with habitats and species of the WPG prairie-oak system.

Table 3. Organizational Capacity and Project Personnel				
Project Lead Entities	Area of Prairie-Oak Expertise	Key Staff	Title	Yrs. Exp.
American Bird Conservancy	Cooperative bird conservation and recovery	Bob Altman	Pacific Northwest Coordinator	26
Benton County	Habitat restoration and land management	Al Kitzman	Parks Superintendant	21
Center for Natural Lands Management	Habitat restoration, land management, rare species conservation biology, cooperative project management and facilitation, native plant production, prescribed fire, financial management	Hannah Anderson, MS	Regional Rare Species Program Manager	8
		Anita Goodrich	Native Plant Production Specialist	3
		Sarah Hamman, PhD	Restoration Ecologist	12
		Sanders Freed, MS	Stewardship Manager	8
		Mason McKinley	Prescribed Fire Program Coordinator	16
		Jim Tipton	Grants Specialist	30
Greenbelt Land Trust	Habitat restoration and land management, wildlife biology	Jeff Baker, MS	Stewardship Manager	12
		Michael Pope, PhD	Executive Director	22
Institute for Applied Ecology	Habitat restoration, land management, research and monitoring, rare species conservation biology, native plant production	Tom Kaye, PhD	Executive Director	26
		Matt Blakely-Smith, MSc.	Restoration Ecologist	9
		Melanie Gisler, MSc	Restoration Ecologist	16
Oregon Metro	Habitat restoration, land management, wildlife monitoring	Jonathan Soll	Science and Stewardship Division Manager	23
		Katy Weil	Wildlife Monitoring Manager	19
		Therese Mitchell	Natural Resource Technician	4
		Elaine Stewart	Senior Natural Resource Scientist	30
San Juan County Land Bank	Habitat restoration and land management	Eliza Habegger	Land Steward	15
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Habitat restoration, land management, rare species conservation biology, wildlife monitoring	David Hays	Restoration Ecologist	23
		Scott Pearson, PhD	Research Scientist	21
		Ann Potter	Wildlife Biologist	25
		Michelle Tirhi	Wildlife Biologist	21
Washington Department of Natural Resources	Habitat restoration, land management	Roberta Davenport	Natural Areas Manager	20
		David Wilderman	Natural Areas Ecologist	20
		Deborah Nemens	Natural Areas Ecologist Assistant	10
Weyerhaeuser	Habitat restoration, land management	Lana D'Souza	Plant Ecologist	10

Table 4. Project Actions Direct Tie to Oregon and Washington State Wildlife Action Plans

Table 4. Project Actions Direct Tie to Oregon and Washington State Wildlife Action Plans			
SWAP Action		Species Benefiting from Action	Sites Where Action Occurs or Project
Habitat Restoration			
Grassland Habitat Restoration Actions			
1.	Identify the best remaining grasslands and work with landowners to maintain quality and limit the spread of invasives. OR 273	All SGCN except SN, AW	Implemented through strategic selection of project sites
2.	Restore native grassland habitat when possible ... Promote use of native plants and seed sources in conservation and restoration programs. OR 274		All Sites
3.	Use integrated pest management practices to control currently established invasive species. WA 297		All Sites except SQ
4.	Develop methods of restoring native prairie habitats. WA 336		All Sites
5.	Protect, remove invading trees and shrubs, and restore functions to prairies, balds, and heaths and other habitats of ... streaked horned lark, Puget Sound fritillary, mardon skipper, ... Taylor’s checkerspot, hoary elfin, Puget blue, Oregon vesper sparrow, valley silverspot ... and restore native vegetation. WA 337		All Sites
6.	Control Scot’s broom, weeds and alien grasses on native grasslands and in oak savannah for mardon skipper, dog star skipper, Oregon branded skipper, Taylor’s checkerspot, hoary elfin, Puget Sound fritillary, valley silverspot, Puget (Blackmore’s) blue, slender-billed white-breasted nuthatch and western bluebird. WA 340		All Sites
7.	Maintain open grassland structure by using multiple site-appropriate tools such as prescribed burns, mowing, controlled grazing, hand-removal of encroaching shrubs and trees, or thinning. Re-introduce fire at locations and at times where conflicts such as smoke and safety concerns can be minimized. OR 272		All Sites
8.	Re-seed with site-appropriate native grasses and forbs after control efforts. OR 281		All sites except EV, DK, BM
9.	Prioritize control methods and use site-appropriate methods to control newly-established invasive plant species for which management can be most effective. OR 281		All sites except TM, SQ
General Oak Restoration Actions			
10.	Protect and restore oak and oak/conifer woodlands, oak savannah and oak/grassland ecotones. WA 338	OS, WB, SN, WM, CS, AW, PD	TM, WN, EG,
11.	Use multiple tools, including prescribed fire, mowing, grazing and selective harvest to maintain open canopy oak-dominated woodlands. OR 280		TM, EG
12.	Encourage oak reproduction through planting. OR 281		TM, EG
13.	Remove conifers or small oaks that are competing with larger oaks. OR 281		TM, WN, EG,
14.	Maintain a diversity of tree size and age across the stand, in particular large oaks and ponderosa pine trees. OR 281		TM, WN, EG,
15.	Maintain snags and create snags from competing conifers to provide cavity habitat. Encourage oak reproduction through planting or protective exclosures. OR 281		TM, WN, EG,

Table 4. Project Actions Direct Tie to Oregon and Washington State Wildlife Action Plans

Table 4. Project Actions Direct Tie to Oregon and Washington State Wildlife Action Plans			
SWAP Action		Species Benefiting from Action	Sites Where Action Occurs or Project
Prescribed Fire Specific Actions			
16.	Conduct prescribed burns on grassland sites where and when needed and feasible for rare butterflies and other grassland species. WA 295	All SGCN except SN, AW	SC, RO, GH, WR, MM, TQ, FG, BZ, EG, CV
17.	Using site-appropriate prescriptions, carefully reintroduce natural fire regimes as part of an overall wildfire risk reduction and habitat restoration program. OR 51		
Monitoring			
18.	There is a growing need to initiate monitoring activities for the less familiar species [and associated habitat] listed in the Species of Greatest Conservation Need. ... This is especially true for ... invertebrates. WA 558	All butterfly SGCN, OS, MPG	All Sites
19.	Monitoring and adaptive management are critical elements of Washington’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. WA 569	All SGCN	All Sites
20.	Monitoring efforts for Strategy Species should emphasize, as needed, either inventory or limiting factors at appropriate spatial scales. Depending on the existing knowledge base, for some species monitoring should focus on basic knowledge of distribution ... When necessary, monitor species one at a time to collect baseline data as needed. Use and build on existing data sets and monitoring efforts to determine status, distribution and trends. OR 103	All SGCN	All Sites
21.	Develop and implement monitoring programs for birds species poorly monitored by existing programs. OR 107	All bird SGCN	All Sites
22.	Determine Strategy Species status and relationships to natural and human-created factors over landscapes. OR 108	OS, MPG	All grassland and oak savannah in OR and WA
23.	Assess demographic parameters significant to Strategy Species at appropriate scales. OR 108	WB	San Juan Island, South Puget Sound, and Willamette Valley
Shared SGCN			
Taylor’s Checkerspot Actions			
24.	Little monitoring of Olympic Peninsula populations has occurred. WA 230	TC	EV, DK, TR, BV, UD, SQ
25.	Determine female food plant preference; standardize annual monitoring. WA 230		EV, DK, TR, BV, UD, SQ, FG, BZ, SC
26.	Conserve suitable habitat, restore degraded habitat ... improve habitat quality ... regular monitoring. WA 230		
Western Bluebird			
27.	Conserve/restore habitat by management of snags and using prescribed fire. Conserve habitat for primary excavators in order to provide nest sites. WA 49	WB	TM, WR, MM, RO, TQ, WN, FG, BZ, EG, SG, BS
28.	Conduct surveys to determine trend in population and whether listing is needed. WA 150		San Juan Island, South Puget Sound, and Willamette Valley
29.	Data gap: Location and factors key to success for natural cavity-nesting pairs. OR 334		
30.	Maintain or restore grassland habitat – especially for large expanses of habitat (e.g., >100 acres), increase plant diversity for greater insect diversity, control key non-native plants. OR 334	All SGCN	All grassland and oak savannah in OR and WA

Table 4. Project Actions Direct Tie to Oregon and Washington State Wildlife Action Plans

SWAP Action		Species Benefiting from Action	Sites Where Action Occurs or Project
Slender-billed White-breasted Nuthatch			
31.	Work with landowners to incorporate conservation of this species and oak woodlands into long-term land management. WA 147	SN	WN, EG, BS
32.	Maintain large oaks >22 in. dbh.	SN	WN, EG, BS
Streaked Horned Lark			
33.	Conserve and restore function to remaining prairie habitat; control and monitor invasive species. WA 144-5	SL	SW, SG, BS
34.	Maintain or restore sparsely vegetated grassland habitat, create nesting areas, increase plant diversity for greater insect diversity, control key non-native plants. OR 333	SL	SW, SG, BS
Oregon Vesper Sparrow			
35.	No formal surveys conducted. WA 153	OS	All grassland and oak savannah in OR and WA
36.	Determine status of candidate species including ... Oregon vesper sparrow. WA 335	OS	All grassland and oak savannah in OR and WA
37.	Maintain or restore grassland habitat, increase plant diversity for greater insect diversity, control key invasive plants. OR 332	OS	TM, SC, WR, MM, RO, TQ, CV, GH, WN, SW, FG, BZ, EG, SG, BS
Local Washington SGCN			
38.	Hoary Elf: Conserve suitable habitat; restore degraded habitat. WA 224	HE	SC, WR, MM, BH, GH, CV, WH, RO, TQ
39.	Dog Star Skipper: Conserve suitable habitat. WA 216	DS	SC, WR, MM, GH, CV, RO
40.	Mardon Skipper: Conserve suitable habitat; increase distribution; control exotic species. WA 215	MS	SC, WR, MM, GH, CV, RO, TQ
41.	Oregon Branded Skipper: Conserve suitable habitat; control invasives and exotics. WA 214	OB	SC, WR, MM, GH, CV, RO, TQ
42.	Proterops Duskywing: Conserve suitable habitat ... restore edge and understory habitat ... remove firs. WA 214	PD	TM, SC, WR, MM, BH, GH, RO, TQ
43.	Puget Blue: Conserve suitable habitat; restore degraded habitat; manage grassland habitats to maintain <i>Lupinus albicaulis</i> in southern Puget Sound. WA 225	PB	SC, WR, MM, GH, CV, WH, RO, TQ
44.	Puget Sound Fritillary: Conserve suitable habitat ... restore degraded habitat ... control and monitor invasive species. WA 226	PF	All South Puget Sound Sites
45.	Valley Silverspot: Conserve suitable habitat; restore degraded habitat; increase distribution; control exotics and invasives at protected sites. WA 228	PF	All Washington sites except TM
46.	Mazama Pocket Gopher: Determine population status and conduct surveys to monitor presence and relative abundance; remove invasive trees, scotch broom from prairie/grassland areas; outreach and education, including informing local residents of gopher colonies. WA 70-71	MPG	SC, WR, CV, WH, TQ

Table 4. Project Actions Direct Tie to Oregon and Washington State Wildlife Action Plans

SWAP Action		Species Benefiting from Action	Sites Where Action Occurs or Project
Local Oregon SGCN			
47.	Fender's Blue: Maintain and restore wet prairie habitat and populations of Kincaid's lupine. OR 350	FB	SW, FG, BZ, EG, BS
48.	Common Nighthawk: Maintain sparsely vegetated grassland patches. OR 328	CN	SC, WR, MM, GH, TQ, SJ
49.	Western Meadowlark: Maintain or restore grassland habitat especially large expanses of habitat (>100 acres), increase plant diversity for greater insect diversity, control key non-native plants. OR 334	WM	SC, WR, MM, GH, TQ, CV, TQ, SW, EG, SG, BS, SJ
50.	Grasshopper Sparrow: Maintain or restore grassland habitat; increase plant diversity for greater insect diversity; maintain high percent native grass cover and <10% shrub cover in patches > 20 acres; ... control key invasive plants. OR 329	GS	SW, SG, BS, SJ
51.	Chipping Sparrow: Maintain areas of open herbaceous understory in oak woodlands. OR 327	CS	WN, FG, EG, BS
52.	Chipping Sparrow: Control key invasive plants. OR 327	CS	All South Sound sites and WN, FG, BZ, BS, EG
53.	Acorn Woodpecker: Work with private landowners to maintain and restore oak woodlands with open understories, especially large patches; maintain snags and older trees with dead limbs. OR 324	AW	SG, BS
Coordination and Outreach Actions			
54.	Accelerate coordinated conservation planning among federal and state land management agencies. WA 251	SL, TC, MPG	Implemented range-wide
55.	Incorporate identified species and habitat conservation priorities into operational work plans within WDFW and other conservation partners. WA 251	SL, TC, MPG	Implemented range-wide
56.	WDFW will never be adequately funded or staffed to address all the conservation problems and issues addressed in the strategy. ...wildlife conservation is almost always more effective when accomplish through working partnership with others. WA 251.	All SGCN	Implemented at an ecoregional scale
57.	Primary or key conservation action includes: wildlife information and conservation education. WA 256	All SGCN	Implemented at an ecoregional scale
58.	Overall recommended action for key conservation issues: Promote collaboration across jurisdictional and land ownership boundaries. OR 36	SL, TC, MPG	Implemented range wide
59.	Promote adequate funding and coordination of weed control efforts on both public and private lands. WA 297	All SGCN	Implemented at an ecoregional scale
60.	Develop educational and public information materials to increase public awareness of the ways that invasive alien species are introduced to sensitive ecosystems. WA 297	All SGCN	Implemented at an ecoregional scale
61.	Reduce the amount and impact of unauthorized recreational access and use on important wildlife habitat through ... and increased public education and information for recreational users and user groupus. WA 298.	All SGCN	Implemented at an ecoregional scale

AW = Acorn Woodpecker; CS = Chipping Sparrow; CN = Common Nighthawk; DS = Dog Star Skipper; FB = Fender's Blue; GS = Grasshopper Sparrow; HE = Hoary Elfin; MS = Mardon Skipper; MPG = Mazama Pocket Gopher; OB = Oregon Branded Skipper; OS = Oregon Vesper Sparrow; PD = Propertious Duskywing; PB = Puget Blue; PF = Puget Sound Fritillary; SO = Short-eared Owl; SN = Slender-billed White-breasted Nuthatch; SL = Streaked Horned Lark; TC = Taylor's Checkerspot; VS = Valley Silverspot; WB = Western Bluebird; WM = Western Meadowlark.

BH = Bald Hill; BS = Baskett Slough; BV = Bear Valley; BZ = Beazell; CV = Cavness; DK = Dan Kelley Ridge; EV = Eden Valley; EG = Evergreen; FG = Fitton Green; GH = Glacial Heritage; SQ = Sequim; MM = Mima Mounds; RO = Rocky; SC = Scatter Creek; SW = Smith/Westbrook; SG = Sportsman's Goose; SJ = St. John's Prairie; TQ = Tenalquot Preserve; TR = Three O'Clock Ridge; TB = Turtleback Mountain; UD = Upper Dungeness; WR = West Rocky; WN = Willamette Narrows; WH = Wolf Haven.

Table 5. SGCN Benefitting from Project Actions

Site Information		Shared SGCN					Local SGCN															
							Oregon							Washington								
WPG Region	Site Name	Taylor's Checkerspot	Streaked Horned Lark	Oregon Vesper Sparrow	Western Bluebird	Slender-billed White-breasted Nuthatch	Fender's Blue	Short-eared Owl	Common Nighthawk	Western Meadowlark	Grasshopper Sparrow	Chipping Sparrow	Acorn Woodpecker	Mazama Pocket Gopher	Hoary Elf	Dog Star Skipper	Mardon Skipper	Oregon Branded Skipper	Propertius' Duskywing	Puget Blue	Puget Sound Fritillary	Valley Silverspot
North Puget Sound & Olympic Peninsula (WA)	Turtleback Mtn.			4	4							4						4	4			
	Eden Valley	8																				8
	Dan Kelly	8																				8
	Bear Mtn.	4																				4
	3 O'Clock Ridge	2																				2
	Upper Dungeness	2																				2
	Sequim	5																				5
South Puget Sound (WA)	Scatter Creek	20		20				20	20	20		20		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
	Scatter Creek (pvt)	5		5				5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	West Rocky	15		15				15	15	15		15		15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
	Mima Mounds	86		86				86	86	86		86			86	86	86	86	86		86	86
	Bald Hills NAP	7										7			7				7		7	7
	Bald Hill Landscape	5										5							5		5	5
	Glacial Heritage	50		50	50			50	50	50		50			50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Cavness	20		80	80							80		80	20	20	20	20		20	20	20
	Wolf Haven	10										10		10	10					10	10	10
	Rocky Prairie	15		15	15					15		15		15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Tenalquot	20		40	40			40	40	40		40		40	20		20	20	20	20	20	20	
Willamette Valley (OR)	WV Narrows			40	40	40						40							40			
	St. John's Prairie		20					20	20	20	20							20				
	Smith/ Westbrook	258	258	258			258			258	258							258				
	Fitton Green	55		55	55		55					55						55	55			
	Beazell	30		30	30							30						30	30			
	Evergreen			31	10	31	5	31		31		31	31					31	31			
	Sportsman's		80					80		80	80							80				
	Baskett Slough	126	126	126		126	126			126	126	126	126						126			
Totals by species	Total Acreage	751	484	905	374	197	444	397	286	796	484	669	157	235	248	211	231	709	509	155	253	282
	Total Sites	21	4	15	9	3	4	9	7	12	4	17	2	7	10	7	8	15	15	8	11	17

Red = Species is the primary target of the habitat restoration at that site.

Green = Habitat restoration activities provide increased and/or enhanced highly suitable habitat for these species, and the species is known to occur on or near the site or expected to potentially occur based on its range and/or the quality of the habitat resulting from the restoration.

Yellow = species is not an SGCN for that state but will derive benefits for the regional populations from habitat restoration activities at those sites.

Values in cells are the numbers of restored acres benefitting the species.

Table 6. Restoration Project Sites							
Site Information					Federal Compliance		
WPG Region	Site Name	Landowner (public or private)	Restored Acreage (total site acreage)	Habitat Type and Quality	Restoration Activities occurring on site	Federal Listed or Candidate SGCN on Site?	Prior Federal Evaluation?
North Puget Sound and Olympic Peninsula	Turtleback Mountain	Sand Juan County Land Bank (public)	4 (200)	Medium-quality oak habitat	Tree removal, burning, planting	No	Yes
	Eden Valley	WDNR (public)	8 (44)	Degraded to high-quality prairie bald habitat	Tree and shrub removal, herbicide	Yes	Yes
	Dan Kelly Ridge	WDNR (public)	8 (45)			Yes	Yes
	Three O’Clock Ridge	USFS (public)	2 (40)			Yes	Yes
	Upper Dungeness	USFS (public)	2 (40)			Yes	Yes
	Bear Valley	USFS (public)	4 (10)			Yes	Yes
	Sequim Wildlife Refuge	Private Landowner	5 (15)	Degraded to high-quality prairie habitat	Seed collection, plant production, herbicide, planting	Yes	Yes
South Puget Sound	Scatter Creek Wildlife Area	WDFW(public)	20 (850)	semi-native to high-quality prairie and oak habitats	Seed collection, plant production, herbicide, burning, planting	Yes	Yes
	Scatter Creek Leased Land ¹	Private Landowner	5 (150)			Yes	No
	West Rocky Wildlife Area	WDFW (public)	15 (800)	Degraded prairie and oak habitats		Yes	Yes
	Mima Mounds Natural Areas Preserve	WDNR (public)	86 (770)	semi-native to high-quality prairie and oak habitats		Yes	Yes
	Bald Hills Natural Areas Preserve	WDNR (public)	7 (314)			Yes	Yes
	Bald Hill Landscape	Weyerhaeuser (private)	5 (18)			No	No
	Rocky Prairie Natural Areas Preserve	WDNR (public)	15 (35)	semi-native to high-quality prairie and oak habitats		Yes	Yes
	Glacial Heritage Preserve	Thurston County (public)	50 (1084)	Degraded to semi-native prairie and oak habitats		No	Yes

¹ Scatter Creek Wildlife Area and Scatter Creek Leased Land are treated as one site and referred to as Scatter Creek in the narrative.

Table 6. Restoration Project Sites							
Site Information					Federal Compliance		
WPG Region	Site Name	Landowner (public or private)	Restored Acreage (total site acreage)	Habitat Type and Quality	Restoration Activities occurring on site	Federal Listed or Candidate SGCN on Site?	Prior Federal Evaluation?
South Puget Sound (Cont.)	Cavness Preserve	Private Landowner	80 (466)	Degraded prairie, semi-native oak habitat		Yes	Yes
	Tenalquot Preserve	TNC (private)	40 (127)	Degraded to semi-native prairie and oak habitats	Seed collection, plant production, herbicide, burning, planting	Yes	Yes
	Wolf Haven	Wolf Haven International (private)	10 (35)			Yes	Yes
Willamette Valley	Willamette Narrows Natural Area	Oregon Metro (public)	40 (425)	Degraded to high-quality prairie and oak habitats	Seed collection, plant production, tree and shrub removal, herbicide, planting	No	No
	St. John's Prairie		20 (566)	Degraded prairie	Plant production, herbicide, planting	No	No
	Smith/Westbrook	Private Landowner	258 (258)	Degraded prairie, former agricultural fields	Plant production, herbicide, mowing, planting	Yes	Yes
	Fitton Green Meadows	Benton County (public)	55 (308)	Semi-native to high-quality prairie, degraded oak savanna	Seed collection, plant production, herbicide, mowing, burning, planting	Yes	Yes
	Beazell Memorial Forest		30 (586)			Yes	Yes
	Evergreen	Greenbelt Landtrust (private)	31 (220)	Degraded prairie and medium-quality oak habitats	Plant production, tree and shrub removal, herbicide, burning, planting	Yes	No
	Sportsmen's Goose Club	Private Landowner	80 (80)	Degraded prairie, former agricultural fields	Plant production, shrub removal, herbicide, mowing, planting	Yes	Yes
	Baskett-Slough National Wildlife Refuge	USFWS (public)	126 (2492)	Degraded prairie, fallow pastures	Plant production, herbicide, planting	Yes	Yes
Total Restored Acres		504 (49%) public 510 (51%) private	1014	Federal Compliance Summary		21 of 26 sites have listed or candidates; 21 of 26 have been previously evaluated	



Conserving State Strategy Species in Prairie-Oak Habitats of the Pacific Northwest: A Bi-State Partnership

Project occurs at priority sites in Oregon and Washington within Willamette Valley - Puget Trough - Georgia Basin (WPG) Ecoregion

Legend

-  WPG Ecoregion
-  Project Area
-  States



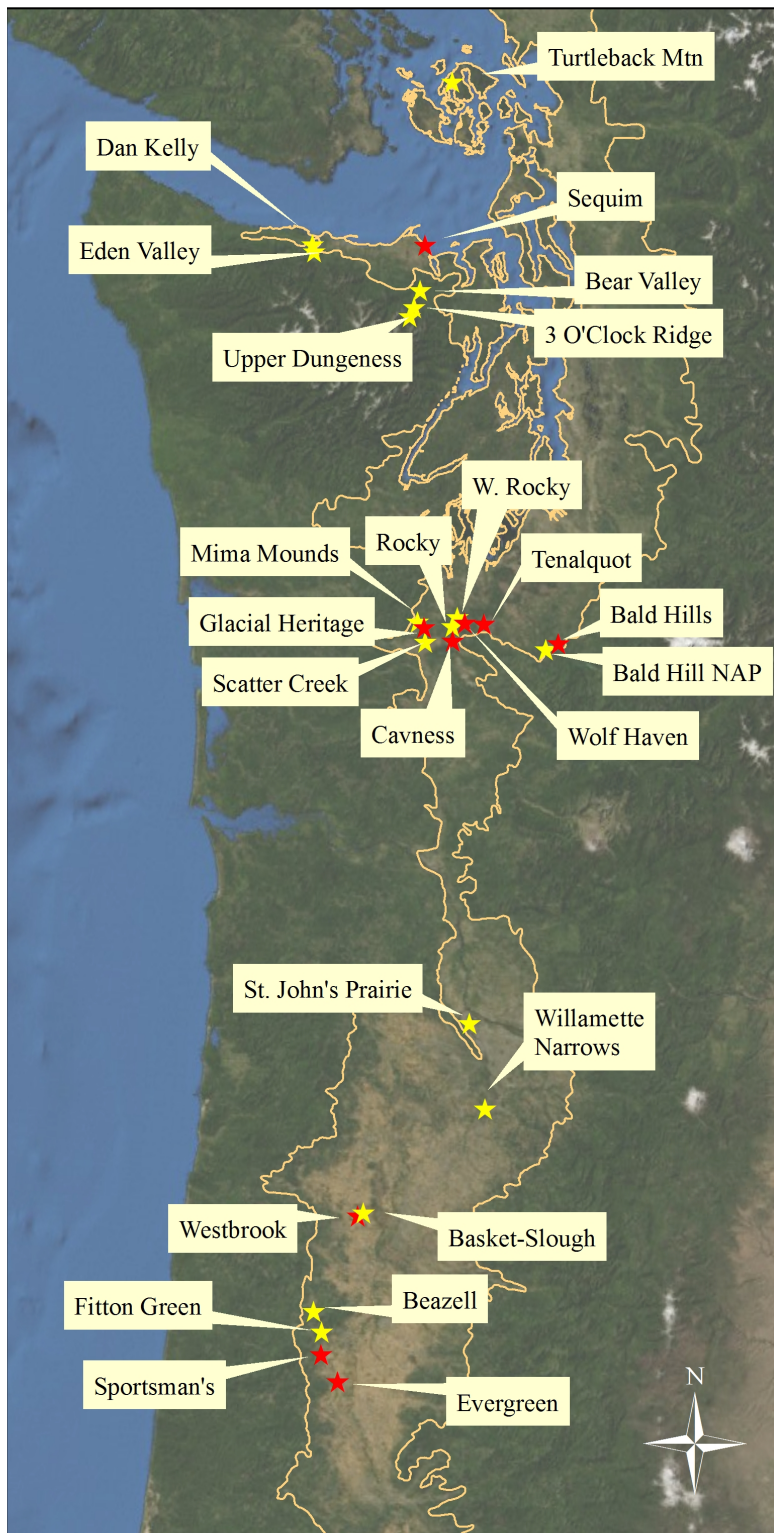


Figure 2.
High priority
restoration sites
where SWAP
actions are
implemented
to benefit SGCN

Legend

Restoration Sites

★ Private

★ Public

Project Area



Note that although Bear Valley, Upper Dungeness, and 3 O'Clock Ridge occur outside the WPG ecoregion boundary, their habitat type is the same as sites that occur within the boundary, and Taylor's checkerspot butterfly is extant on those sites.

Table 7. Project Budget Detail. June 2012 – May 2015						
Project Lead	Project Title/Location (Project Objective)	SWG Request		Non-Federal Match	Match Source	Total Project Cost
		Direct Costs	Indirect Costs			
Project Applicant						
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Habitat Restoration at Scatter Creek and West Rocky (Obj.1)	\$0	\$0	\$287,000	Washington Wildlife Recreation Program	\$287,000
	Habitat Restoration for Taylor’s Checkerspot at Bear Valley, Eden Valley, Dan Kelly, 3 O’Clock Ridge, Sequim, Upper Dungeness (Obj. 1)	\$61,957	\$19,043	\$0	WDFW in-kind staff time	\$81,000
	Mazama Pocket Gopher Survey and Assessment (Obj. 2)	\$61,773	\$14,523	\$10,000	WDFW in-kind staff time	\$86,296
	Oregon Vesper Sparrow Survey and Assessment ² (Obj. 2)	\$4,048	\$952	\$0	n/a	\$5,000
	Developing a standardized monitoring protocol for butterflies and implementing at WA sites (Obj. 3)	\$36,230	\$4,475	\$7,000	WDFW in-kind staff time	\$47,705
	Public Outreach (Obj. 4)	\$2,591	\$609	\$0	n/a	\$3,200
	SWG Project Management ³ (Obj. 4)	\$4,048	\$952	\$0	n/a	\$5,000
Lead Implementing Partner – (WDFW will pass-through partner project funds to CNLM who will coordinate and distribute)						
Center for Natural Lands Management	Habitat Restoration at Glacial Heritage, Tenalquot, and Cavness Preserves (Obj. 1)	\$69,788	\$10,468	\$59,780	Volunteer time and CNLM reduced indirect rate from 17% to 15%	\$140,036
	Native Plant Production to support South Puget Sound Restoration projects (Obj. 1)	\$30,930	\$4,638	\$45,619	Washington Wildlife Recreation Program and CNLM reduced indirect rate from 17% to 15%	\$81,188
	Habitat Monitoring development and data summary (Obj. 3)	\$4,770	\$715	\$95	CNLM reduced indirect from 17% to 15%	\$5,581
	SWG Project Management ⁴ (Obj. 4)	\$33,349	\$78,480 ⁵	\$10,464	CNLM reduced indirect from 17% to 15%	\$122,294
	Ecoregional Coordination and Outreach (Obj. 4)	\$35,187	\$5,278	\$704	CNLM reduced indirect from 17% to 15%	\$41,169

² Cooperative project with American Bird Conservancy

³ Cooperative project with Center for Natural Lands Management

⁴ Cooperative project with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

⁵ Indirect is calculated at 17% (includes 2% matching) for all funds passed-through CNLM, which will be subsequently distributed to partners

Table 7. Project Budget Detail. June 2012 – May 2015						
Project Lead	Project Title/Location (Project Objective)	SWG Request		Non-Federal Match	Match Source	Total Project Cost
		Direct Costs	Indirect Costs			
Implementing Partners						
American Bird Conservancy	Range-wide population and habitat relationship assessment for Oregon vesper sparrow ⁶ (Obj. 2)	\$48,800	\$7,200	\$0	n/a	\$56,000
	Post-reintroduction population monitoring and viability assessment for Western bluebird on San Juan Island (Obj. 2)	\$16,100	\$2,400	\$28,000	Cash support from Norcliffe Foundation and Wildlife Forever Fund, In-kind support from ABC	\$46,500
	Developing a standardized monitoring protocol for birds and implementing it at Oregon sites (Obj. 3)	\$15,800	\$2,400	\$0	n/a	\$18,200
Benton County	Habitat Restoration at Fitton Green Meadows and Beazell Memorial Forest ⁷ (Obj. 1)	\$105,024	\$0	\$33,866	In-kind support from Oregon Department of Forestry. In-kind support from Benton County	\$138,890
Greenbelt Land Trust	Habitat Restoration at Evergreen (Obj. 1)	\$21,000	\$1,050	\$10,000	Private donations provided through Greenbelt Landtrust	\$32,050
Institute for Applied Ecology	Habitat Restoration at Baskett-Slough, Westbrook/Smith, and Sportsman’s Goose Club (Obj. 1)	\$73,824	\$11,176	\$40,000	In-kind support from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, in-kind support from IAE.	\$125,000
Oregon Metro	Habitat Restoration at Willamette Narrows and St. John’s Prairie (Obj. 1)	\$50,000	\$0	\$85,400	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and OR Metro in-kind support	\$135,400
San Juan County Land Bank	Habitat Restoration at Turtleback Mountain (Obj. 1)	\$17,500	\$2,600	\$10,500	Local real estate excise tax (REET), SJCLB;s primary funding source	\$30,600
Washington Dep’t of Natural Resources	Habitat Restoration at Bald Hill Natural Area Preserve (Obj. 1)	\$91,750	\$2,233	\$0	n/a	\$93,983
Weyerhaeuser	Habitat Restoration in the Bald Hill Landscape (Obj. 1)	\$14,300	\$3,700	\$7,000	In-kind support from Weyerhaeuser	\$25,000
Wolf Haven	Habitat Restoration at Wolf Haven (Obj. 1)	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	Volunteer and In-kind support from Wolf Haven	\$30,000
	Public Outreach (Obj. 4)	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	In-kind support Wolf Haven	\$3,000
Totals		\$801,770	\$172,894	\$665,428		\$1,640,092

Budget Note: Matches were determined as of June 2012, a critical timeline for both monitoring and habitat management activity. Should our project be funded we will be seeking pre-award costs for the project to begin at the time of award notification. This early start date will allow projects to commence as planned and match to be recorded (e.g. habitat restoration at Baskett-Slough, Smith/Westbrook, Sportsman's Goose, Scatter Creek, Mima Mounds, West Rocky, Rocky). All restoration sites that will begin at the time of award notification in 2012 will be collecting pre-treatment monitoring data in spring 2012.

⁶ Cooperative project with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

⁷ Cooperative project with Oregon Department of Forestry

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Program

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N • Olympia, WA 98501-1091 • (360) 902-2515; TTY (800) 833-6388
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building • 1111 Washington Street SE • Olympia, WA

January 20, 2012

Dan Edwards
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Migratory Birds & State Programs
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration
911 NE Eleventh Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is pleased to commit to \$304,000 in cost-share for the proposed project entitled "Birds and Butterflies in Prairie-Oak Habitats of the Pacific Northwest: Enhancing Bi-State Partnership for Conserving State Strategy Species". We are excited about significantly increasing cooperative conservation efforts for endangered species in grasslands and oak woodlands of Oregon and Washington. The majority of the cost-share funds are from a recent state lands restoration grant, provided through Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO project 10-1440). The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Center for Natural Land Management are partners in the RCO project, and a portion of the \$304,000 match is being passed through to those groups. The proposed SWGS project will greatly enhance our efforts to restore habitat for western Washington grassland and oak woodland species, such as the Mazama Pocket Gopher, Taylor's checkerspot, and Mardon skipper.

A large number of State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) actions for Species of Greatest Conservation Need, outlined in the proposal (Table 4) will be conducted with this project. For the federal candidate Mazama Pocket Gopher, this project implements 5 of the 7 actions outlined in the SWAP, Conserve suitable habitat (action 3.3.1), outreach and education (action 3.3.2) habitat restoration (action 3.3.4), conduct surveys (action 3.3.6), and remove invasive trees and shrubs from grasslands (action 3.3.7).

For the federal candidate Taylor's checkerspot, the proposed project meets SWAP actions 3.35.1 and 3.35.2; for the federal candidate Mardon skipper, the proposed project meets SWAP action 3.28.4. Additional actions for SGCN include actions 3.34.1, 3.34.2, and 3.34.5 for Puget Sound fritillary; action 3.27.2 for hoary elfin; actions 3.9.1 for Oregon vesper sparrow; action 3.29.3 for Oregon branded skipper; action 3.32.2 and 3 for Puget blue butterfly, action 3.34.2 for valley silverspot butterfly.



If you have any questions regarding cost-share or need further clarification, please contact Rocky Beach, Wildlife Diversity Division Manager at (360) 902-2510 (richard.beach@dfw.wa.gov) or the principal investigator, David Hays @ (360)-902-2366.

Thank you for the opportunity to compete in this important program. We look forward to hearing from you when your evaluation process is completed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rocky Beach".

Rocky Beach,
Wildlife Diversity Division Manager

cc: David Hays, WDFW,
Harriet Allen, WDFW



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber MD., Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Wildlife Division
3406 Cherry Avenue NE
Salem, OR 97303
(503) 947-6300
FAX: (503) 947-66330
Internet: www.dfw.state.or.us/

January 19th, 2012



Dan Edwards
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Migratory Birds & State Programs
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

Subject: State Wildlife Grants Competitive Grant Program Proposal: Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats: a Bi-State Partnership

Dear Mr. Edwards,

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) supports the State Wildlife Competitive Grant proposal prepared by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for prairie-oak habitat restoration and species monitoring in the Pacific Northwest.

Grasslands and oak woodlands are both Strategy Habitats highlighted in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (Strategy; State Wildlife Action Plan). Habitat restoration actions outlined in the grant proposal follow the approaches recommended in the Strategy to address limiting factors of grassland (p. 270-274 of the Strategy) and oak woodland (p. 279-281) habitats. The grant is also an opportunity to address the research and conservation needs of Strategy Species, including the Oregon Vesper Sparrow, Streaked Horned Lark, Western Meadowlark and Fender's Blue Butterfly (p. 324-335).

Implementing the grant is an exciting collaboration and would engage several of the states' conservation partners. While we acknowledge that WDFW is the lead applicant for this grant and therefore would take on the fiscal responsibilities, ODFW staff has contributed to the grant proposal planning efforts. If the grant is awarded, this support will continue through involvement in working groups, coordination with project partners, as well as receiving copies of the annual reports.

Sincerely,

Eric V. Rickerson
Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator



January 19, 2012

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Migratory Birds & State Programs
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181

RE: Support for State Wildlife Grant proposal "Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats: a Bi-State Partnership"

To Whom It May Concern:

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is pleased to be a partner on the proposed State Wildlife Grant (SWG) project "Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats: a Bi-State Partnership". We strongly support the project proposal and its focus on increased cooperative conservation among Washington and Oregon partners. In addition, we are currently a partner with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on a Washington Recreation and Conservation Office project grant (#10-1440) for prairie and oak woodland restoration. WDFW is committing \$125,000 of these grant funds as match for the SWG proposal on DNR's behalf. The proposed SWG project will greatly increase our capacity to restore prairie and oak woodland habitat and will foster important cooperative efforts among partners.

As referenced in Table 4 of the SWG grant application, the efforts to be implemented in the proposed project will help to accomplish a number of actions identified in the Washington and Oregon State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs). Included in these are several actions relating to mardon skipper and Taylor's checkerspot, which are among the species that would directly benefit from restoration efforts on DNR sites under the proposed project. These include "*Conduct a full survey of western WA grasslands with respect to the distribution, habitat, and management requirements*" and "*Control exotic species*" for mardon skipper; and "*Conserve suitable habitat*" and "*Restore degraded grassland habitat and improve habitat quality*" for Taylor's checkerspot.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (360) 902-1916 or David Wilderman, Natural Areas Ecologist at (360) 902-1556.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important conservation program.

Sincerely,

Pene Speaks
Natural Heritage Conservation Section Manager

Cc: Curt Pavola, DNR
David Wilderman, DNR



greenbelt land trust

101 SW Western Suite #111 ♦Correspondence to PO Box 1721♦ Corvallis, OR 97339

January 10, 2012

Subject: Match funding commitment of Greenbelt Land Trust

Dear SWG Review Team Members:

As a partner in the State Wildlife Grant proposal, titled “Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats: a Bi-State Partnership” submitted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Greenbelt Land Trust commits a total of \$10,000.00 in non-federal cash match-funding towards conservation of prairie-oak habitats of the Pacific Northwest. Match funding will come from private sources raised by Greenbelt Land Trust:

Contributor	Amount	Type	Status	Source
Greenbelt Land Trust	\$10,000.00	Cash	Secured	Non-federal, private
Total:	\$10,000.00			

If there are any questions or if additional information is needed please feel free to contact me directly at (541) 752-9609.

Sincerely,

Jeff Baker



Mailing address:
PO Box 2855
Corvallis Oregon 97339-2855

Street address:
563 SW Jefferson Ave
Corvallis, Oregon 97333

Ph. 541-753-3099
Fax 541-753-3098

www.appliedeco.org

January 10, 2012

To: State Wildlife Grants
US Fish and Wildlife Service

This letter serves as our commitment to provide matching funds for the State Wildlife Grant application from Oregon and Washington for habitat improvement projects in at-risk bird and butterfly habitats.

IAE fully supports this proposal and commits to providing a total of \$40,000 in in-kind match. This match is committed for habitat improvement projects on the Smith/Westbrook, Sportsmen's Goose Club, and Basket Slough National Wildlife Refuge properties. The source of the match is a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to conduct habitat restoration at these sites and includes no federal funds.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Sincerely,

Tom Kaye
Executive Director



Metro | *Making a great place*

January 18, 2012

Grants Review Committee
State Wildlife Conservation Grant Program
United States Fish and Wildlife Service

RE: Match commitment letter for Oregon/Washington State Wildlife Grant Proposal titled:
Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairies and Oak Woodlands: a Bi-State Partnership

To whom it may concern:

Metro's Natural Areas Program is fully committed to providing \$85,400 non-federal match for \$50,000 funding received through the state wildlife conservation strategy grant program for work at our Willamette Narrows and St. Johns Prairie sites. We have already received a substantial grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for work at Willamette Narrows and we have additional funding in hand for work at St. Johns Prairie. Metro will budget operational funding for managing these project sites for the foreseeable future regardless of the outcome of any particular grant proposal.

Restoration of the 425-acre Willamette Narrows site and the oak habitat it supports is a high priority for our program, not only for the period of this grant, but as an anchor for our program's efforts to support the Oregon Conservation Strategy and conserve wildlife habitat in our jurisdictional area. Similarly, the 250-acre St. Johns Prairie grassland is a high priority and anchor for grassland and prairie dependent wildlife.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Metro natural resource scientist Elaine Stewart at 503-797-1515.

Best regards,

Jim Desmond, Director
Sustainability Center



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Forestry

West Oregon District

24533 Alsea Hwy.

Philomath, OR 97370

(541) 929-3266

FAX: (541) 929-5549

January 11, 2012

To: State Wildlife Grant Proposal – Oregon and Washington USFW Service.

Project: 'Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats: A Bi-State Partnership'

The Oregon Department of Forestry is committing to accomplish habitat and restoration burning at Fitton Green and Beazell Memorial Forest, for Benton County Natural Areas and Parks, contingent upon appropriate weather and burning conditions, provided ODF has the man-power and time, and ODF is not otherwise engaged in fire prevention and suppression duties, free of cost to Benton County in return for the live fire training experience and opportunities this type of burning provides to ODF and its cooperators (i.e. Rural Fire Districts and Landowners).

An estimate of the in-kind match of approximately \$10,700, is attached. Please let me know if there are any questions regarding the enclosure.

Allison Blair
Wildland Fire Supervisor
Philomath Unit



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Habitat & Restoration Burning
 Fitton Green and Beazell County Parks
 2012-15

Personnel Hours	112	\$37.79	\$4,232.48
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Vehicle Mileage				
Vehicle	ID#	Miles	Rate	Cost
PU	06-423	20	\$0.65	\$13.00
PU	05-474	74	\$0.58	\$42.92
PU	05-472	98	\$0.58	\$56.84
E-42	06-280	20	\$1.95	\$39.00
E-61	02-454	20	\$0.90	\$18.00
E-62	04-453	20	\$1.01	\$20.20
E-261	01-461	74	\$0.90	\$66.60
E-361	08-407	98	\$1.15	\$112.70
Mileage Sub Total				\$369.26

Engine Pump Time				
Engine	ID#	Hrs	Rate	Cost
E-42	06-280	2	\$103.00	\$206.00
E-61	02-454	4	\$33.00	\$132.00
E-62	04-453	4	\$33.00	\$132.00
E-261	01-461	4	\$33.00	\$132.00
E-361	08-407	4	\$33.00	\$132.00
Pump Time Sub Total				\$734.00

1 Day Total Costs	\$5,335.74
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Total for 2 Days	\$10,671.48
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Olympic
National
Forest

Hood Canal Ranger District
P.O. Box 280
Quilcene, WA 98376

File Code: 2670

Date: January 24, 2012

Dave Hayes
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Mr. Hayes:

I am writing to express support for the State Wildlife Grant Program proposal entitled "Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats: a Bi-State Partnership."

The Olympic National Forest, in partnership with other agencies has been actively involved in managing prairie habitats on Forest. Several diverse, natural balds and prairies exist on the north and east sides of the Forest, including sites in the Dungeness watershed occupied by the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. The Olympic National Forest and the Department of Fish and Wildlife have been monitoring Taylor's checkerspot habitats on the Forest, and have initiated habitat restoration work. It is important to continue efforts to conserve and manage these habitats, and other prairie habitats throughout the region. Managing oak and prairie habitats is most effective if done in a coordinated manner throughout the region as you propose. I strongly support this proposal, and the Olympic National Forest is pleased to be one of the partners.

Sincerely,

(for) DEAN YOSHINA
District Ranger

cc: Karen K Holtrop, Susan D Piper





January 19, 2012

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wildlife and Sport Fish Recreation Program
State Wildlife Grant Review Committee

Re: 2012 State Wildlife Grant Proposal: Birds and Butterflies in Prairie and Oak Habitats of the Pacific Northwest: Enhancing Bi-State Partnership for Conservation of State Strategy Species

Wolf Haven International is a private landowner in Thurston County, and have approximately 55 acres of native mounded prairie on site. We have been operating for nearly 30 years, and are visited by over 12,000 people, including over 3500 school age children each year. Our mission is to provide sanctuary for displaced captive wolves, provide education about wildlife and wildlife habitats, and to work to protect and conserve wildlife habitat. We made a conscience decision over a decade ago to begin actively restoring our native prairie habitat, and with the help of numerous partners, have made tremendous strides. Our prairie is relatively small in size, but it serves as a stepping stone for the many butterflies and other insect species to adjacent prairies that are being restored.

Wolf Haven International fully supports the proposed project to continue restoring native prairie habitat, and commits to providing \$ 30,000 (\$15,000 each year for two years) in in-kind match to implement this project. The match is provided as volunteer and staff time working with our conservation partners to restore our prairie.

Projects to be implemented under the proposal "Conserving State Strategy Species in Prairie-Oak Habitats of Oregon and Washington: a Bi-State Partnership" specifically address actions identified in the Washington and Oregon State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP). Examples include restoring prairie habitats (WA SWAP pages 297, 336-7, 340; OR SWAP pages 272-3, 281), coordinating range-wide conservation (WA SWAP pages 251, 297; OR SWAP page 36), and facilitating outreach and education (WA SWAP page 256). See Table 4, Project Actions Direct Tie to Oregon and Washington State Wildlife Action Plans (Pages 15-18), of the proposal for a full list of SWAP actions implemented under this proposal.

Sincerely,

Diane Gallegos
Executive Director
Wolf Haven International

"Adopt a wolf!"

3111 Offut Lake Road SE • Tenino, WA 98589 • p: 360.264.4695 • 800.448.9653
f: 360.264.4639 • www.WolfHaven.org • info@WolfHaven.org



Corporate Headquarter - International • MS WTC 1A5 • Federal Way, Washington, 98063

January 10, 2012

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
State Wildlife Grants Competitive Grant Program
Grant Review Committee

To whom it may concern,

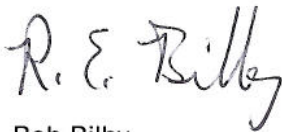
Subject: Regarding Match/Co-Share Letter for State Grant Proposal

This letter is to affirm Weyerhaeuser's commitment to provide \$7,000 in cost-sharing funds for the State Wildlife Action Grant Proposal *Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats: a Bi-State Partnership*. The project at the Bald Hills sites contains significant conservation activities that would benefit multiple at risk species and supports Weyerhaeuser's core policy of environmental stewardship.

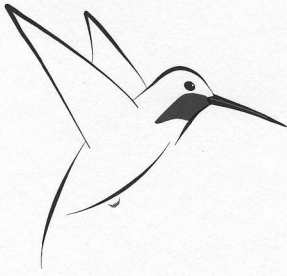
Weyerhaeuser will provide in-kind cost-sharing funds that are of non-federal origin and have not been used to match any other previous or current projects funded with U.S. Federal Funds. Cost-sharing funds will be in the form of donated services and supplies.

We are pleased to be able to participate in the cooperative proposal.

Regards,



Bob Bilby
Senior Scientific Advisor



AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

CONSERVING WILD BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAS

January 13, 2012

Re: Match letter for State Wildlife Grant proposal

This letter is to affirm the American Bird Conservancy's commitment to provide \$28,000 in matching funds for the State Wildlife Action Grant proposal *Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats: a Bi-State Partnership*. The project contains significant conservation activities that will benefit several bird species of conservation concern, and support the mission of the American Bird Conservancy to conserve native wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas.

Per the grant requirements, the American Bird Conservancy will provide matching funds that are of non-Federal origin and have not been used to match any other previous or current projects funded with U.S. Federal funds. The match will be provided through \$27,000 in cash from the Norcliffe Foundation and the Wildlife Forever Fund, along with \$1,000 in-kind services from private individuals as part of our project *Reintroduction of the Western Bluebird to the San Juan Islands*.

Sincerely,

Bob Altman



311 NE MISTLETOE CIRCLE • CORVALLIS, OR • 97330

PHONE: 541-745-5339 • FAX: 541-745-5339 • E-MAIL: BALTMAN@ABCBIRDS.ORG



Natural Areas and Parks Department

360 SW Avery Avenue
Corvallis, OR 97333-1192

(541) 766-6871

Fax: (541) 766-6891

January 11, 2012

RE: Oregon/Washington State Wildlife Grant Proposal
US Fish and Wildlife Service

This is to confirm the commitment of the Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Department to provide matching funds for the referenced grant and project "Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats: a Bi-State Partnership."

We will provide in-kind match support in the amount of \$23,552 to support the "Fitton Green and Beazell Prairie Habitat Enhancement" project. The in-kind match is derived from County general funds which support our department. This project is consistent with our overarching management goals to secure, protect and enhance natural areas and their habitats for a range of public benefits.

We are pleased to be able to participate in this cooperative proposal.

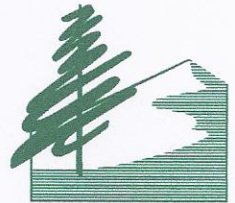
Sincerely,

Jeffry Powers
Director

Center for Natural Lands Management

A non-profit organization for the protection and management of natural resources

215 West Ash Street
Fallbrook, CA 92028-2904
Phone: 760.731.7790
Fax: 760.731.7791
www.cnlm.org



January 17, 2012

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Wildlife and Sport Fish Recreation Program

Re: Competitive State Wildlife Grant Program Proposal

The mission of Center for Natural Lands Management is: to conserve native species, their habitats and functioning ecosystems in perpetuity; to own and/or manage lands in an ecologically beneficial manner consistent with local, state and federal environmental laws with science-based stewardship; to promote the conservation values of such lands through education; to promote and facilitate uses of such lands by the public that preserve the conservation values; and to cooperate with public and private entities in their efforts to protect native species and their habitats for the public benefit.

Projects to be implemented under the proposal "Conserving State Strategy Species in Prairie-Oak Habitats of Oregon and Washington: a Bi-State Partnership" specifically address actions identified in the Washington and Oregon State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP). Examples include restoring prairie habitats (WA SWAP pages 297, 336-7, 340; OR SWAP pages 272-3, 281), coordinating range-wide conservation (WA SWAP pages 251, 297; OR SWAP page 36), and facilitating outreach and education (WA SWAP page 256). See Table 4, Project Actions Direct Tie to Oregon and Washington State Wildlife Action Plans (Pages 15-18), of the proposal for a full list of SWAP actions implemented under this proposal.

This letter serves as our commitment to provide matching funds for the proposal, which supports the shared goals of the Center, our partners, and USFWS. The Center fully supports this project and commits to providing a total of \$116,662 in non-federal match. This match is committed as: 4,344 volunteer hours calculated at \$13.44 per hour for a total of \$58,384; \$45,000 in native plant production contract from Washington State funds; and \$13,278 in reduced indirect rate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Gittleson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Melanie Gittleson
Chief Financial Officer
Center for Natural Lands Management



SAN JUAN COUNTY

LAND BANK

January 25, 2012

**Re: Match letter for Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest
Prairie and Oak Habitats: a Bi-State Partnership.**

This letter is to confirm the San Juan County Land Bank's commitment to provide \$10,500 in matching funds for the State Wildlife Action Grant Proposal *Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats: a Bi-State Partnership*. The project supports the Land Bank's conservation mandate by furthering the protection and restoration of the prairie-oak ecosystem, a priority habitat in San Juan County.

The Land Bank will provide matching funds that are of non-federal origin and have not been used to match any previous or current projects funded with federal money.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Bormann
Director