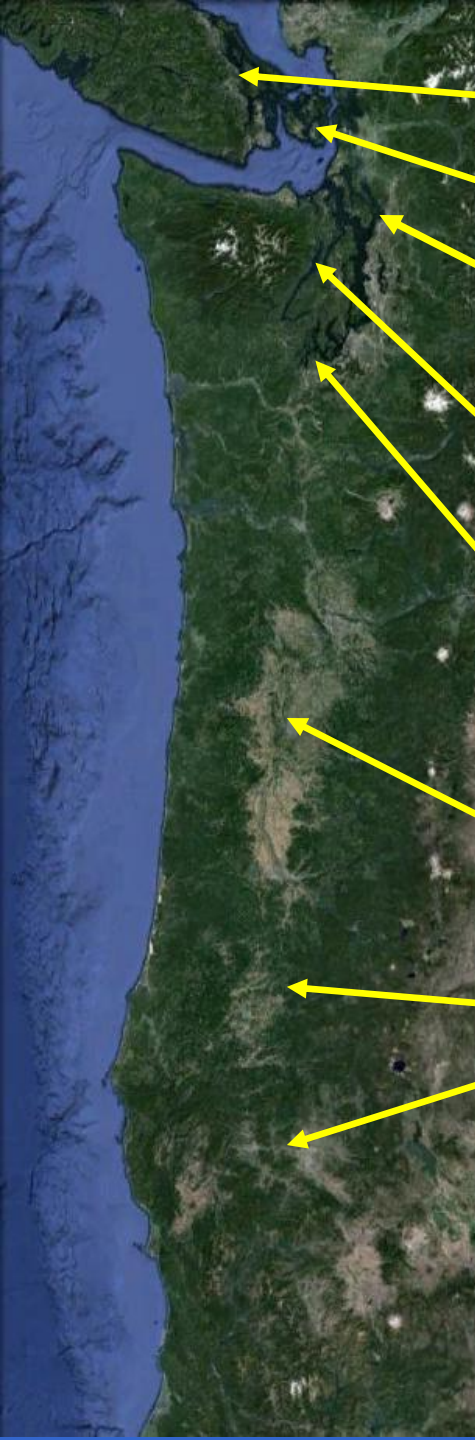


Oregon Vesper Sparrow Range-Wide Inventory: A Bird on the Brink



Bob Altman

SM Beucherus 2008



“occasional”
“rare summer visitant”

“not a common summer resident”

“few records as a breeding species”

“found in numbers at Dungeness”

“common on open prairie east and west of Shelton”

“rather abundant on the Nisqually Plain”

“common summer resident of local distribution”

“common or abundant”

“somewhat less common than Willamette Valley”

British Columbia

- Endangered, probably extirpated as a breeder

Washington

- Candidate Species for listing as Endangered/Threatened

Oregon

- Sensitive-Critical (Imperiled with Extinction)

Breeding Bird Survey

- Range-wide -5.01
- Washington -17.25
- Oregon -4.07
- Willamette Valley 79% decline



























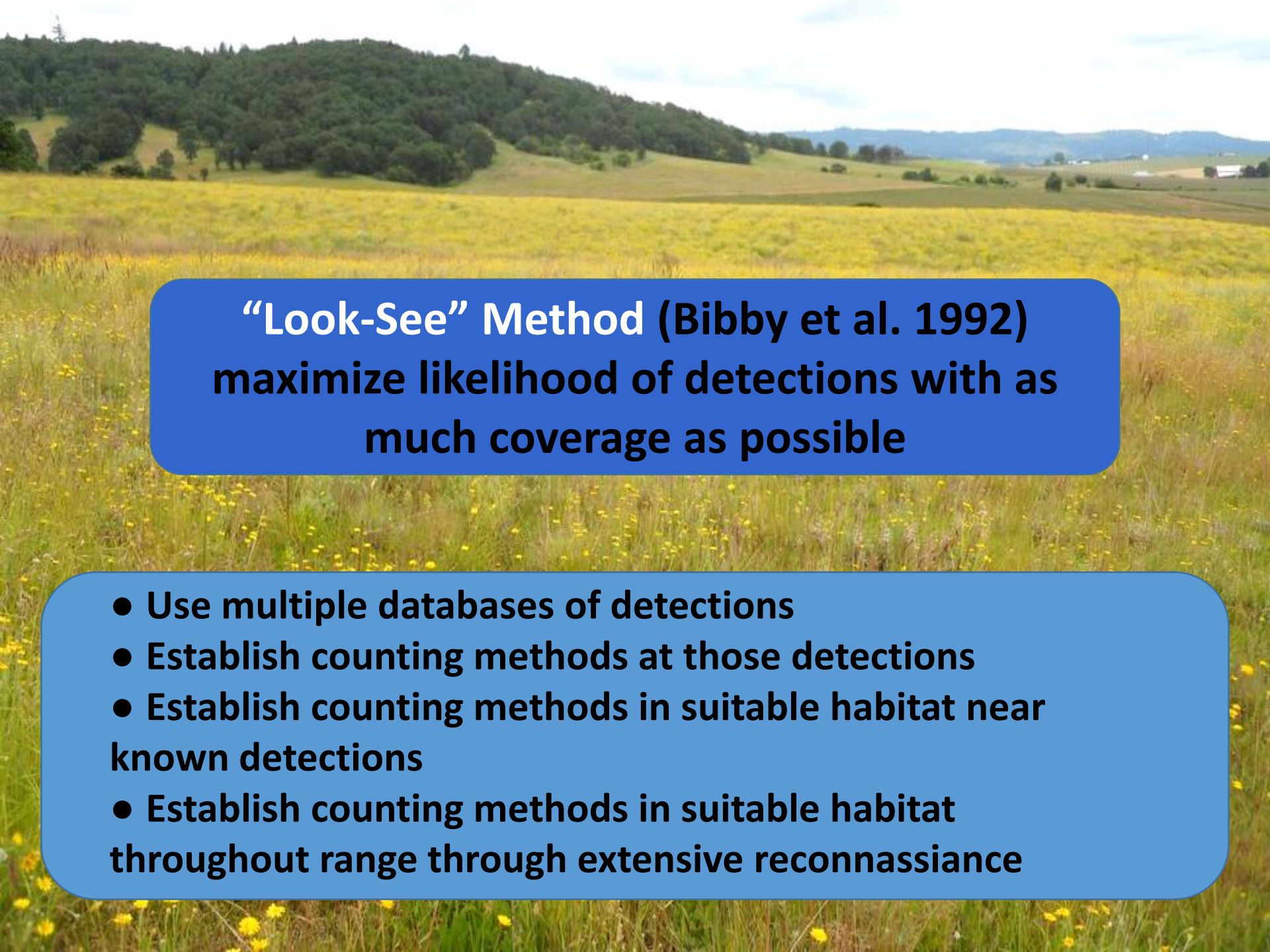




Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats: a Bi-State Partnership



Objective: Locate as many birds and populations as possible throughout entire range from San Juan Islands to the Oregon-California border.



“Look-See” Method (Bibby et al. 1992)
maximize likelihood of detections with as
much coverage as possible

- Use multiple databases of detections
- Establish counting methods at those detections
- Establish counting methods in suitable habitat near known detections
- Establish counting methods in suitable habitat throughout range through extensive reconnaissance

- **665 *roadside point count stations*** in 4 ecoregions
- **41 *off-road point count stations*** at 9 sites in 2 ecoregions
- **12 *off-road transects*** at 4 sites in 3 ecoregions; approx 9 miles
- **26 *off-road area searches*** at 28 sites in 3 ecoregions; approx 4,423 ac
- **100 *territories mapped*** at 12 sites in 3 ecoregions
- **10 *nests monitored*** at 1 site in 1 ecoregion





- Coarse-level habitat data for 187 roadside detections and 78 off-road plots
- Finer-scaled habitat data at 100 territories and 10 nests



Roadside Point Count Detections

Ecoregion/Sub-Unit	Number Stations	Oregon Vesper Sparrow Detections			
		Total Detections	Minimum Individuals	Number Stations(%)	Number Stations Both Visits(%)
Puget Lowlands					
North Puget Sound	67	0	0	0	0
South Puget Sound	72	0	0	0	0
Willamette Valley					
North Willamette Valley	45	1	1	1 (2)	0
South Willamette Valley	101	32	25	21 (23)	6 (32)
Klamath Mountains					
Umpqua Valley	182	69	58	43 (24)	18 (42)
Rogue Basin	174	28	21	12 (7)	5 (42)
Coast Ranges					
Southern Oregon	24	11	9	8 (33)	2 (25)
TOTALS	665	141	114	85 (13)	31 (37)

Total Detections

Source	Effort	Detections
Roadside Point Counts	665 stations, 4 ecoregions	114
Off-Road Point Counts	9 sites, 2 ecoregions	1
Off Road Transects	4 sites, 3 ecoregions, 9 miles	7
Area Searches	28 sites, 3 ecoregions, 4,000+ acres	73
Territory Mapping	12 sites, 3 ecoregions	100
eBird	Range-wide continuous	16
Breeding Bird Survey	Range-wide continuous	21
Birding List-serves	Range-wide continuous	12
Incidental Others	Range-wide continuous	5
Incidental Altman	Range-wide continuous	10
Totals		359

Comments on Coverage

- Puget Lowlands – good, except for JBLM AIA
- Lower Columbia River – fair, access is an issue
- Willamette Valley – good, only minor inaccessible ranchlands
- Oregon Coast – fair, no roads into some pastureland
- Umpqua Valley – fair, many areas of large pastureland
- Rogue Basin – good, missed a few montane meadows





British Columbia **extirpated**

North Puget Sound **<10 pairs**

Olympic Peninsula **<10 pairs**

South Puget Sound **75-125 pairs**

Lower Columbia River **25-40 pairs**

Willamette Valley **150-250 pairs**

Umpqua Valley **600-900 pairs**

Southern OR Coast **15-25 pairs**

Rogue Basin **50-75 pairs**

Range-Wide
1,850 – 2,800 birds

Primary Conservation Challenges

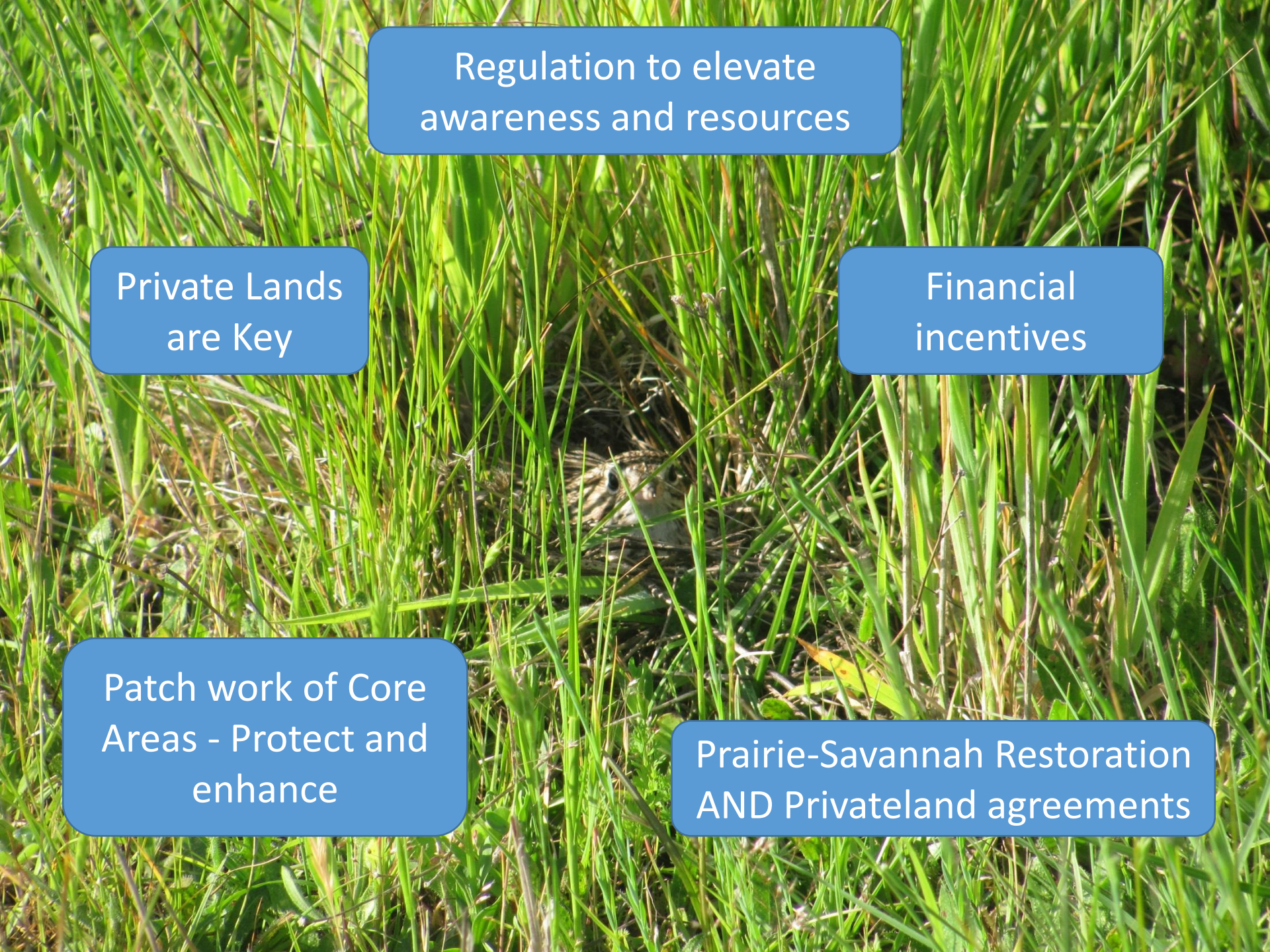


- Private lands in Willamette and Umpqua Valleys
= 75-80% of population
- Many small populations
= tenuous existence with numerous local extirpations



**Oregon Vesper
Sparrow Habitat =
Ideal Vineyard sites**



A close-up photograph of a grasshopper, likely a meadow sparrowhawk, nestled within tall, vibrant green grass. The grasshopper's body is camouflaged with brown and tan stripes, and its large, dark eyes are visible. The background is a dense field of similar grass, creating a natural, textured environment.

Regulation to elevate
awareness and resources

Private Lands
are Key

Financial
incentives

Patch work of Core
Areas - Protect and
enhance

Prairie-Savannah Restoration
AND Privateland agreements



Questions ?

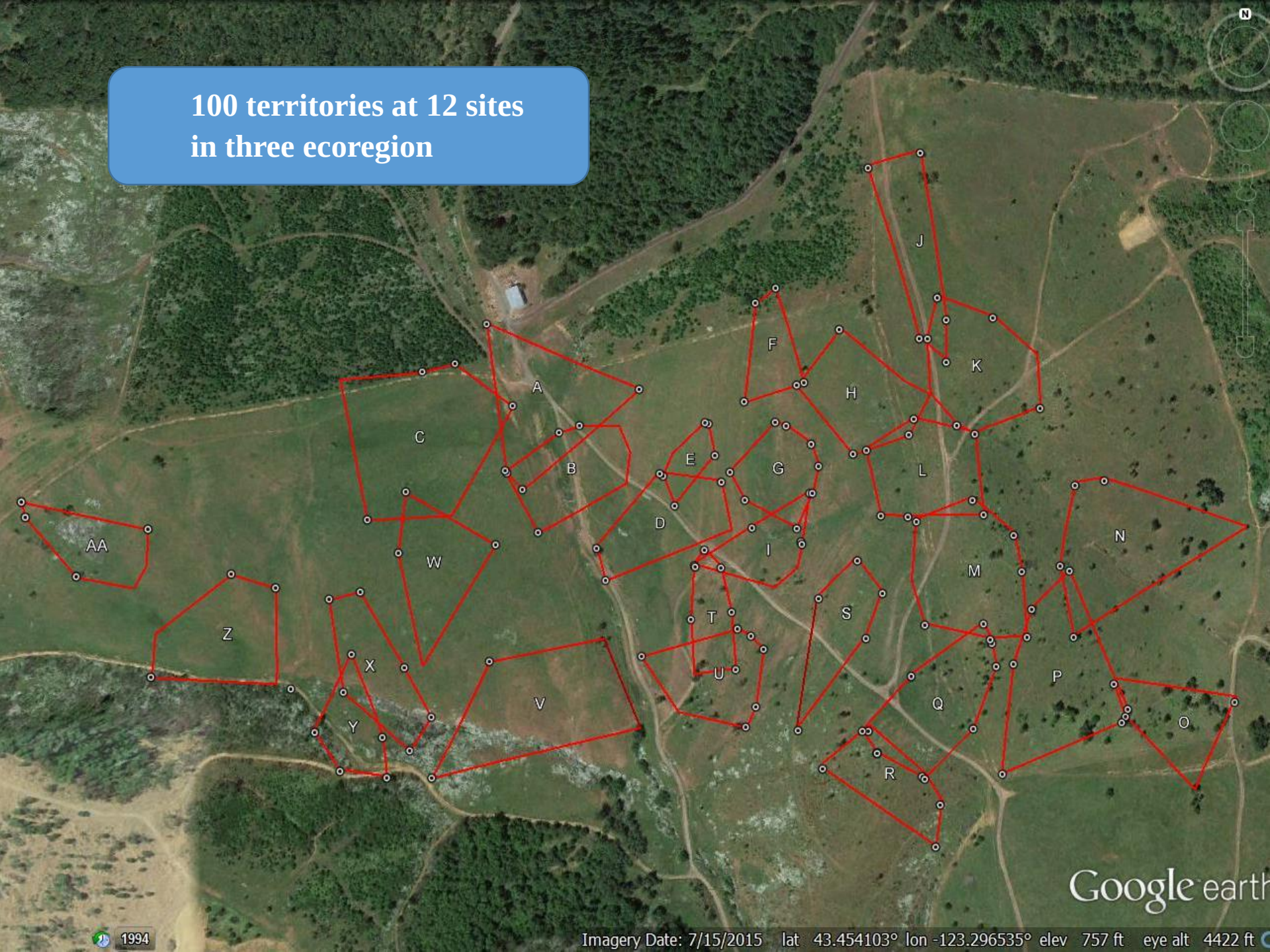








100 territories at 12 sites
in three ecoregion



Google earth

Imagery Date: 7/15/2015 lat 43.454103° lon -123.296535° elev 757 ft eye alt 4422 ft

1994

sites >20 acres where
tree and shrub cover are
scattered and <15% each
and dominated by
structurally diverse
herbaceous vegetation of
moderate stature (i.e., 6-
18" in mid to late May)
with 5-15% bare ground



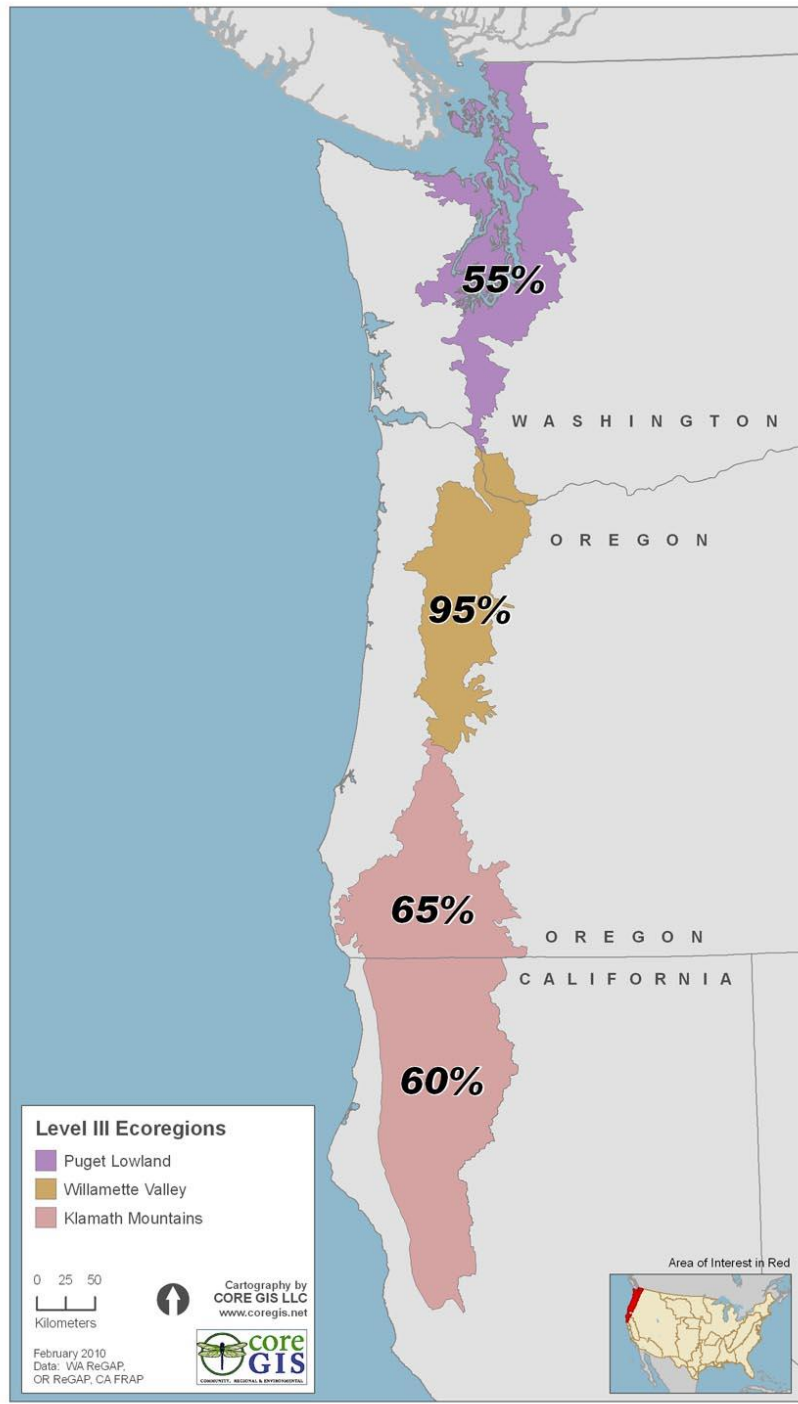






Working lands: bird values compete with economics





Private and Developed Lands



Where people want to live,
play, and farm





Forbs
>15%

Bald Hill Farm,
Corvallis Oregon



2015

2014

