



Photo courtesy of Bethel Heights Vineyards

Butterfly-Safe Wine? Layering Incentives to Maximize Species Benefits on Private Lands

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WILLAMETTE PARTNERSHIP



Overview

- ✦ Incentives Trifecta Program
- ✦ Ingredients of Success
- ✦ Concluding Thoughts



Incentives Trifecta

Merger of incentives: consumer demand (eco-labels), new revenue (ecosystem markets), & regulatory acknowledgement (ESA compliance).

- ✦ Salmon-Safe Farm Certification Standards
- ✦ Willamette Partnership metrics
- ✦ USFWS Safe Harbor Agreement

-> Recovery of Fender's blue butterfly



Fender's blue butterfly

(Icaricia icarioides fenderi)

- ✦ **Listed as endangered:** 2000
- ✦ **Critical habitat:** upland prairie with lupine (threatened) & nectar sources
- ✦ **Range:** native upland prairies of Willamette Valley OR
- ✦ **Threats:** habitat degradation, loss, and fragmentation



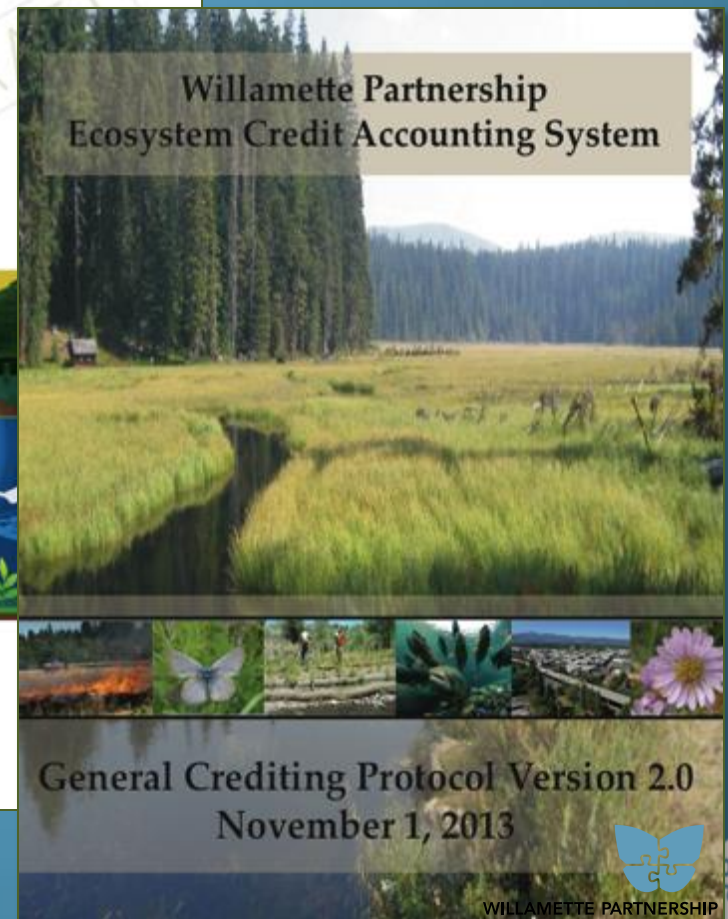
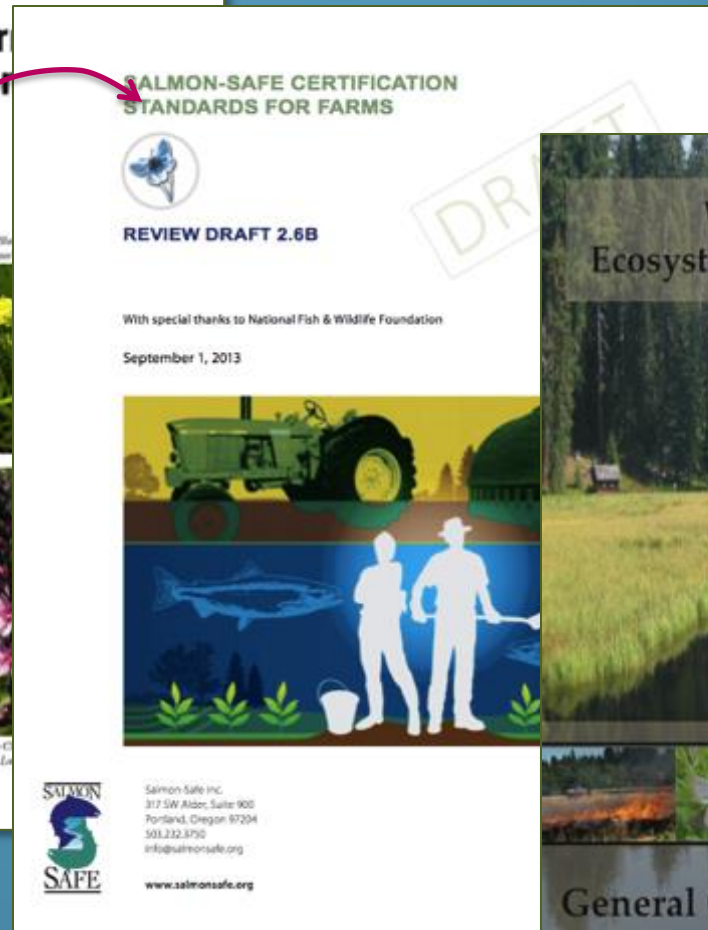


Fender's blue butterfly

Recovery Strategy (USFWS 2010):

- ✦ Protect, restore, maintain, and connect remaining fragments of prairie habitats or areas with potential for restoration
- ✦ Restore & maintain multiple viable populations

Incentives Trifecta



Incentives Trifecta

SALMON-SAFE⁺ OVERLAY CERTIFICATION STANDARDS FOR WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMS

REVIEW DRAFT 1.0

Prepared by Jude Hobbs, Agroecology Northwest
Developed in collaboration with Willamette Partnership

September 1, 2013



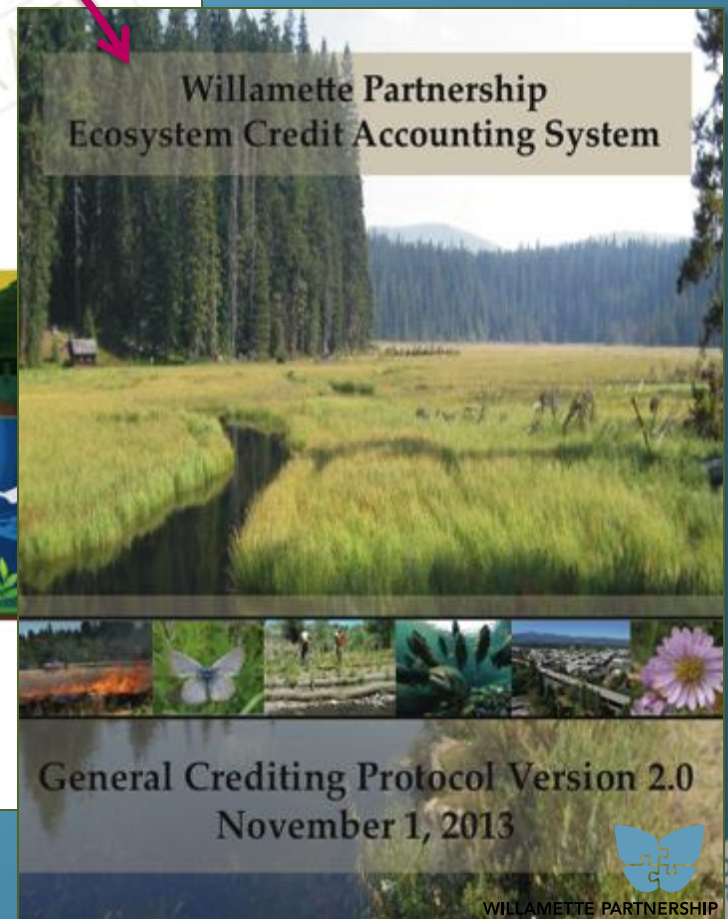
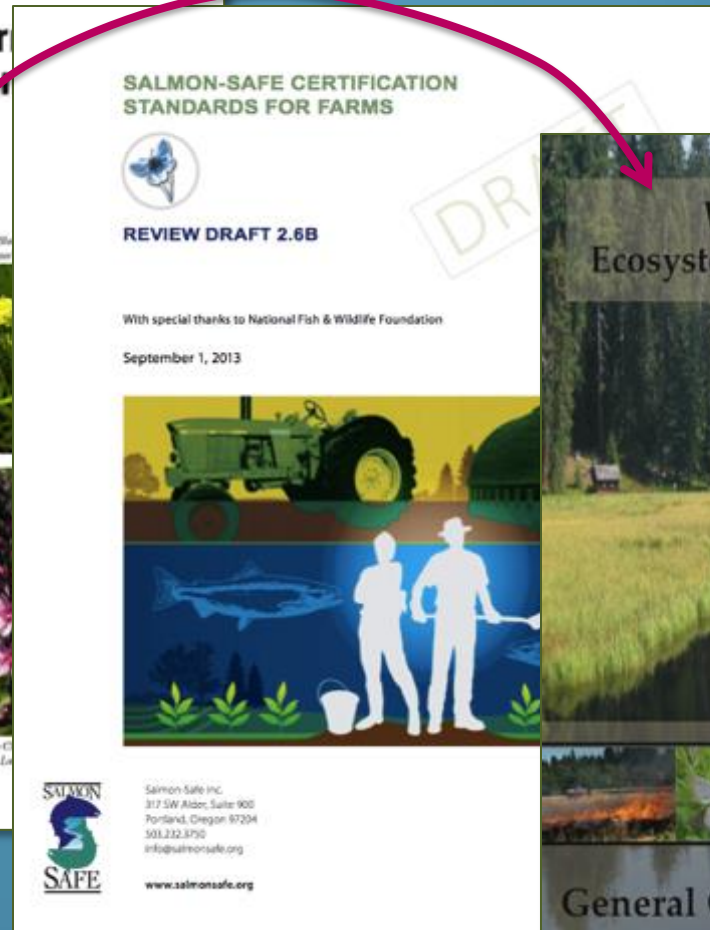
Salmon-Safe Inc.
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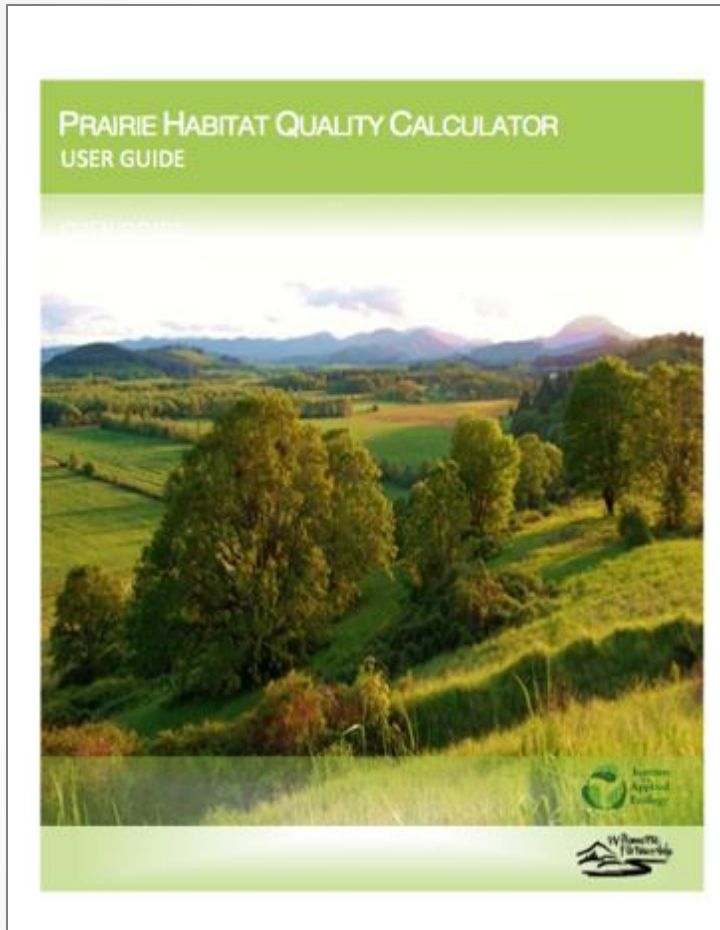
Industry BMPs
compatible with Fender's
habitat restoration and
protection



Incentives Trifecta



Upland Prairie Habitat Quality Calculator (v2.0)



Upland Prairie Habitat

2.3 Before entering new data, clear any numbers in the shaded cells Column G of this worksheet.

2.4 Does any part of this site qualify as "upland prairie"? The following questions together determine that. After each question enter "Y" for yes or "N" for no.

2.5

2.6

2.7

2.8

2.9

3.0

3.1

3.2

Fender's Blue Butterfly Module

Answer questions 1-4 about HABITAT HETEROGENEITY and CONNECTIVITY with GIS or aerial photos. Contact USFWS for information about nearby Fender's blue butterfly sites (allow 2-3 weeks to obtain information).

1 How heterogeneous is the habitat in terms of its topography?

2 How heterogeneous is the habitat in terms of its vegetation?

3 How heterogeneous is the habitat in terms of its soil?

4 How heterogeneous is the habitat in terms of its water features?

At-Risk Plant Module

Answer questions 1-4 about HABITAT HETEROGENEITY and CONNECTIVITY with GIS or aerial photos. Contact USFWS for information about nearby At-Risk plant sites (allow 2-3 weeks to obtain information).

1 What is the abundance of At-Risk plants at the site? (If only targeting At-Risk plants or Garden pondplants, leave blank.)

2 What is the abundance of Western prairie dog at the site? (If only targeting At-Risk plants or Garden pondplants, leave blank.)

3 What is the abundance of Western pondplant at the site? (If only targeting At-Risk plants or Garden pondplants, leave blank.)

4 Is the RARE PLANT population stable in size, increasing or decreasing over the last 5-10 years? (If no or less than 5 plants are suitable, leave blank.)

SCORE





Safe Harbor Agreements for Private Landowners

What Is a Safe Harbor Agreement?

A Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) is a voluntary agreement involving private or other non-Federal property owners whose actions contribute to the recovery of species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The agreement is between cooperating non-Federal property owners and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which is responsible for most listed marine and anadromous fish species.

In exchange for actions that contribute to the recovery of listed species on non-Federal lands, participating property owners receive formal assurances from the FWS that if they fulfill the conditions of the SHA, the FWS will not require any additional or different management activities by the participants without their consent. In addition, at the end of the agreement period, participants may return the enrolled property to the baseline conditions that existed at the beginning of the SHA.

How Does a SHA Contribute to Recovery?

Because many endangered and threatened species occur exclusively, or to a large extent, on privately owned property, the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and recovery of species is crucial. Property owners are often willing partners in efforts to recover listed species. However, some people may be reluctant to undertake activities that support or attract listed species on their properties, due to concern about future use limitations related to the ESA. To address this concern, a SHA provides that future property-use limitations will not occur without the landowner's consent.

Central to this approach is that the actions taken under the SHA will provide a net conservation benefit that contributes to the recovery of the



Alisa Shalh/USFWS

Texas cattle rancher Bob Long and Tim Schumann of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service celebrate the success of a Safe Harbor Agreement to help the endangered Houston toad. Looking on are Robert Long, Jr., and Adam Zerrenner of the Ecological Services Program of the Service. They are standing in front of a wetland that the Partners Program helped to create as habitat for the toad on the Long property.

species included in the agreement. The contribution toward recovery will vary from case to case, and the SHA does not have to provide permanent conservation for the enrolled property. The benefit to the species depends on the nature of the activities to be undertaken, where they are undertaken, and their duration. The SHA and associated documents include a description of the expected net conservation benefit(s) and how the FWS reached that conclusion.

Examples of conservation benefits include:

- maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of existing habitats;
- reduced habitat fragmentation; increases in habitat connectivity;
- stabilized or increased numbers or distribution;
- the creation of buffers for protected areas; and
- opportunities to test and develop new habitat management techniques.

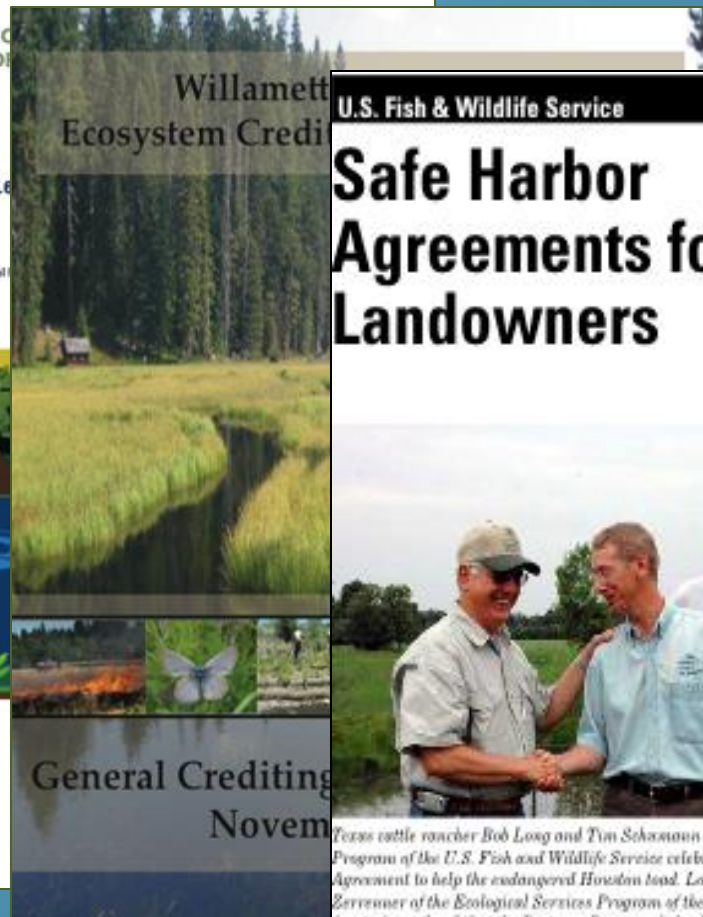
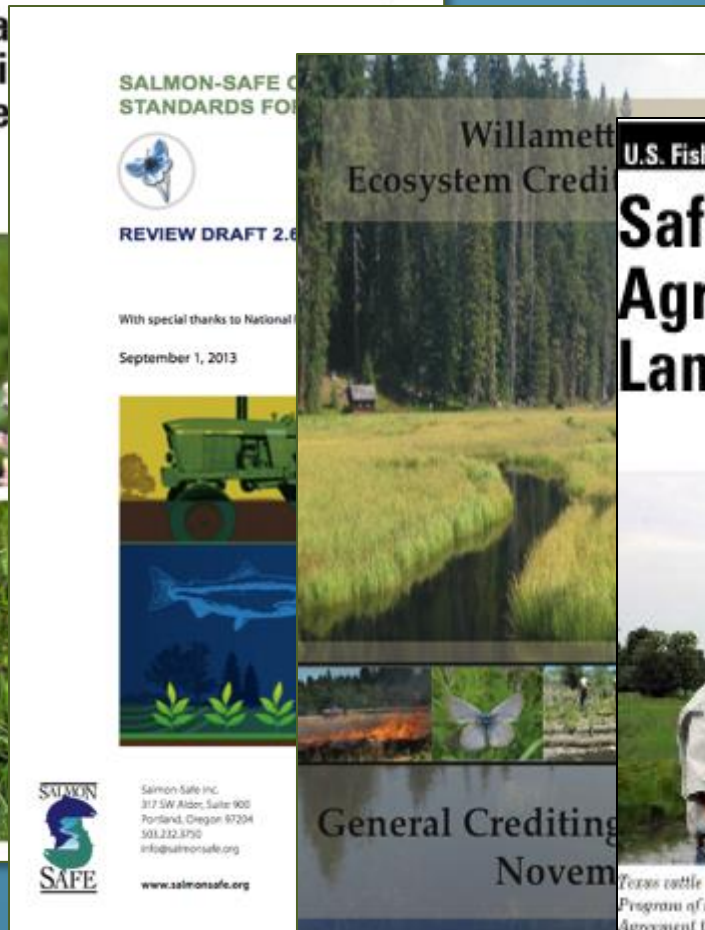
How Does a Property Owner Benefit?

By entering into a SHA, property owners receive assurances that land use limitations will not be required even if the voluntary actions taken under the agreement attract particular listed species onto enrolled properties or increase the numbers or distribution of those listed species already present on those properties. The assurances are provided by the FWS through an Enhancement of Survival Permit issued to the property owner; under the authority of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. This permit authorizes incidental take of species that may result from actions undertaken by the landowner under the SHA, which could include

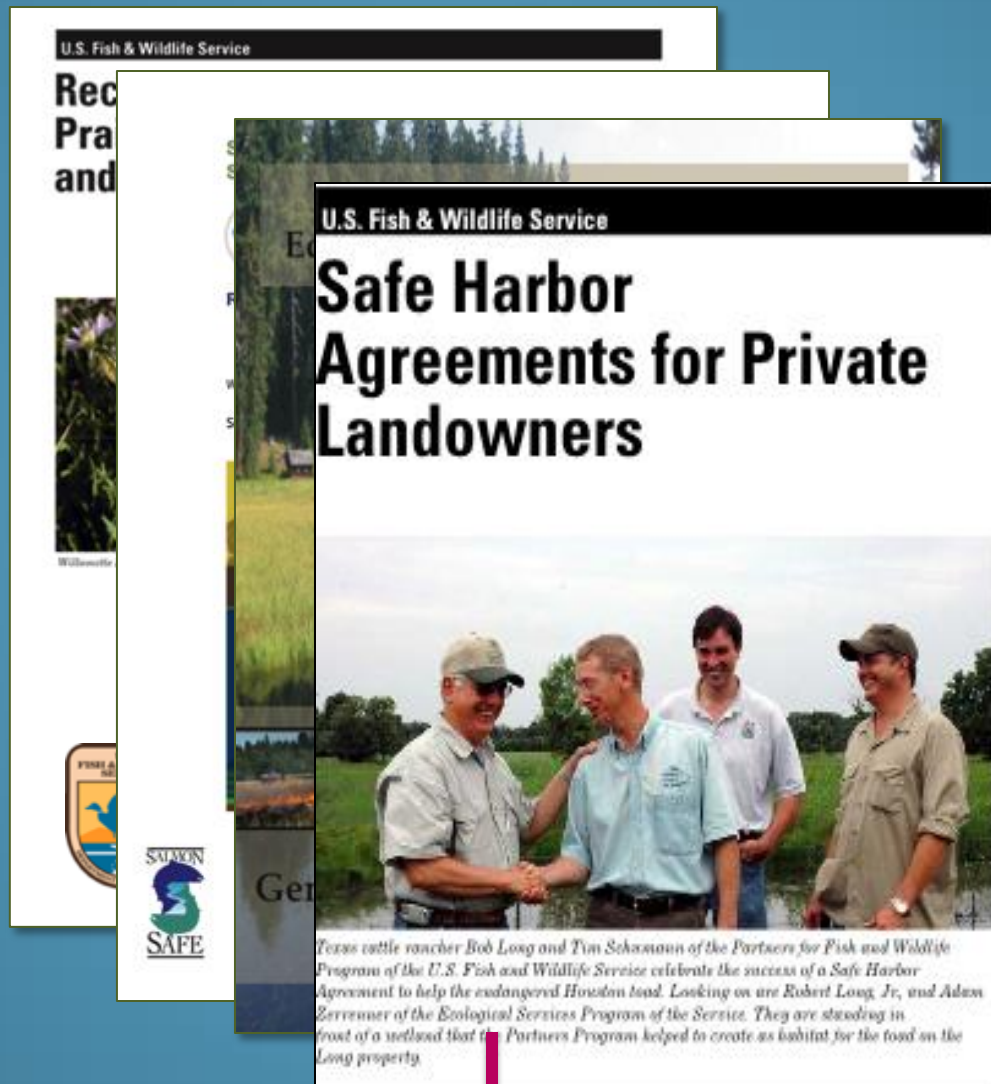
Must provide a net conservation benefit that contributes to the recovery of the covered species (but does not require permanent conservation for enrolled property).



Incentives Trifecta



Incentives Trifecta



Incentives Trifecta

Process

1. Engage Salmon-Safe+ eligible producers

- Whole farm approach to certification
- ***Focus:*** BMPs + standards for conservation/restoration

2. Use WP Ecosystem Credit Accounting System metric

- Habitat types on property
- ***Focus:*** quantification of benefits of conservation/restoration

3. Develop a Conservation Management Plan

- Measure baseline conditions
- **Identify & implement conservation actions to improve species habitat**
- **Demonstrate (quantify) net benefit to species**
- ***Focus:*** Safe Harbor Agreement eligibility

Incentives Trifecta

Process + Outcomes

1. Engage Salmon-Safe+ eligible producers

- Whole farm approach to certification

Engage best management practices + standards for

✓ Get Salmon-Safe+ Certified

✓ Generate upland prairie ecosystem service credits

3. ✓ Enroll in a Safe Harbor Agreement

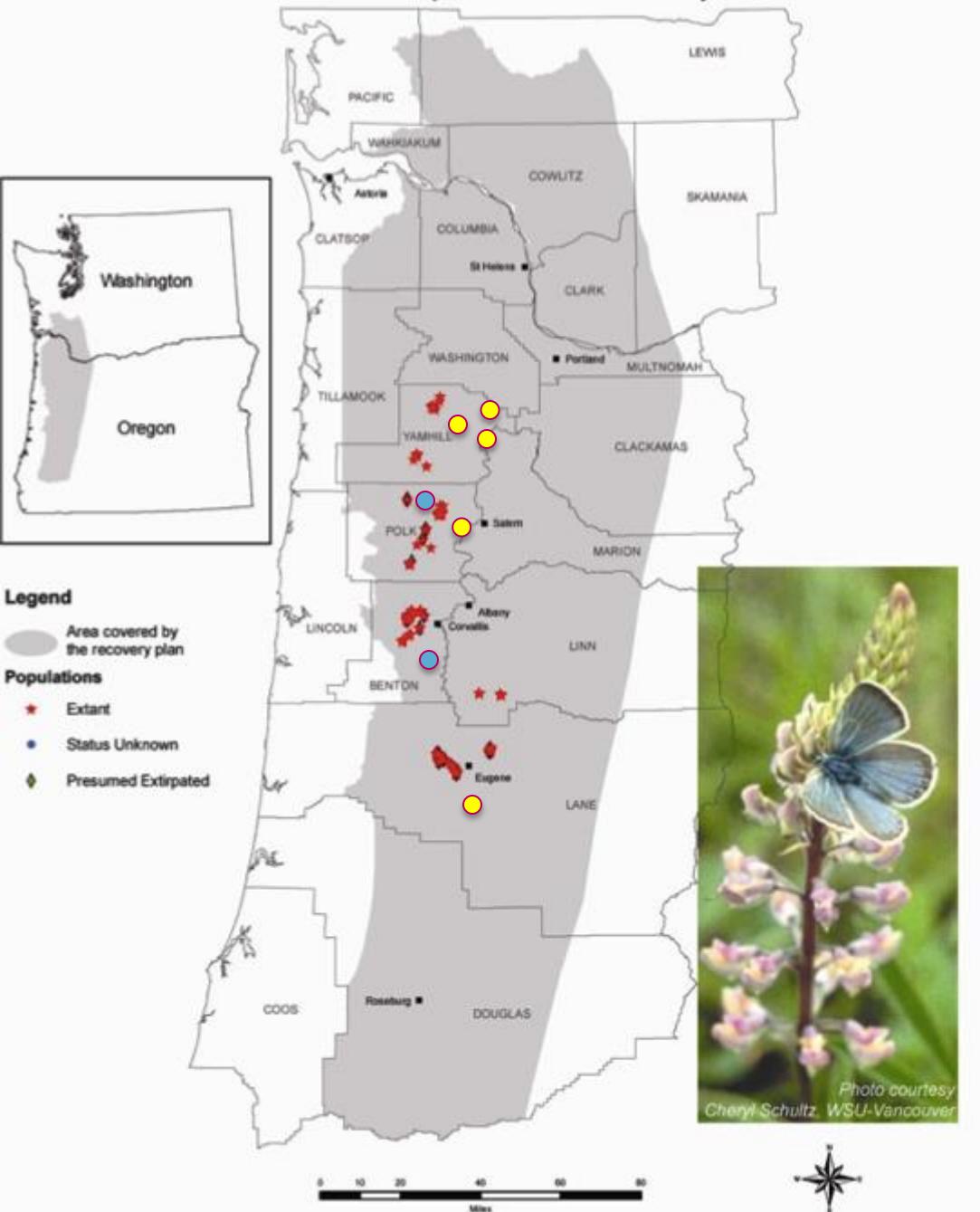
- Measure baseline conditions
- Identify & implement conservation actions to improve species habitat
- Demonstrate (quantify) net benefit to species
- Focus: Safe Harbor Agreement eligibility

Incentives Trifecta

Program Goals

- ✦ Increase # of producers participating
- ✦ Decrease transaction costs
- ✦ Speed adoption rate of conservation practices
- ✦ Support recovery of Fender's blue butterfly in the Willamette Valley

Distribution Map for Fender's blue butterfly



Recovery strategy:
mosaic of occupied
and unoccupied
suitable habitats.

Stepping stone or
"functioning network"
of habitat

Ingredients of Success

Engaging private landowners

- One pair of boots on the ground
- Point of contact
- Peer to Peer communication

Strong scientific basis – quantification tool linked to credible conservation measures

Linking site level restoration to landscape level recovery





Concluding Thoughts

- Targeted conservation actions for species – aligning them with BMPs for working lands
- Flexibility in marketing incentives to landowners
- Scaling up?
- Success story: downlisting or delisting species through collaborative efforts of landowners, conservation groups, scientists and agencies



Acknowledgements

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Questions?

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