

Ecology and Conservation of Streaked Horned Larks in Oregon's Prairie(ish) Landscape

A Case Study of Two Breeding Sites

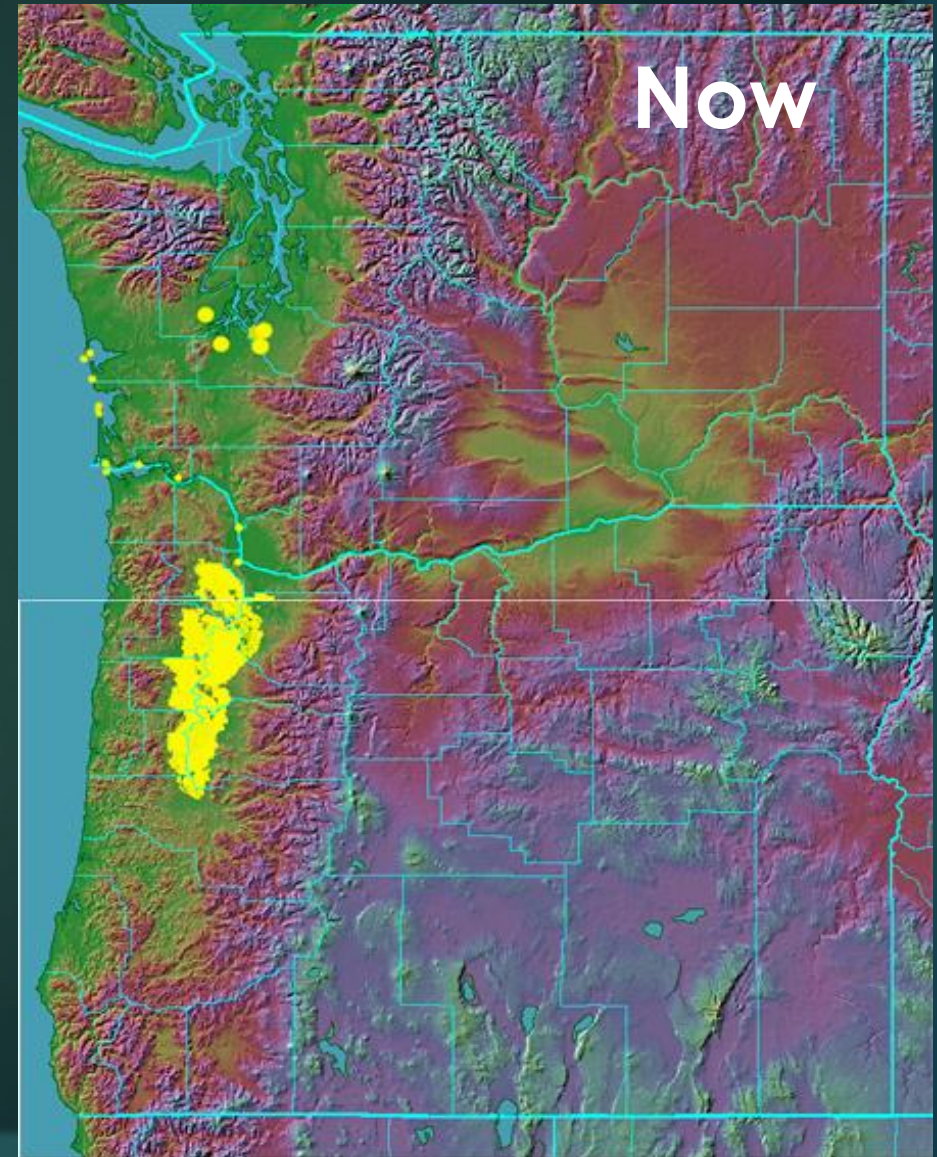
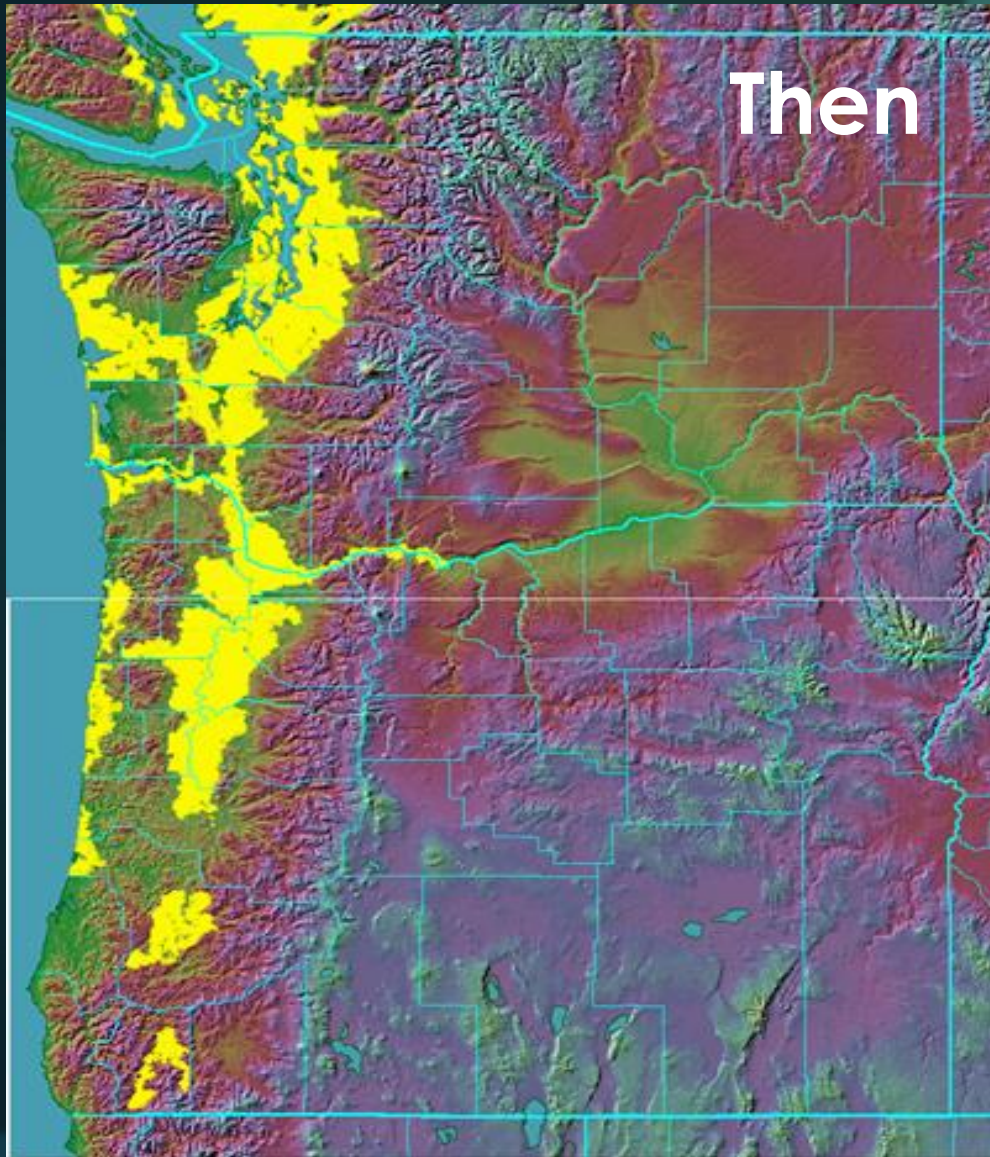


Basic Lark Ecology

- ▶ Terrestrial oscine passerines
 - ▶ North America's only native Lark



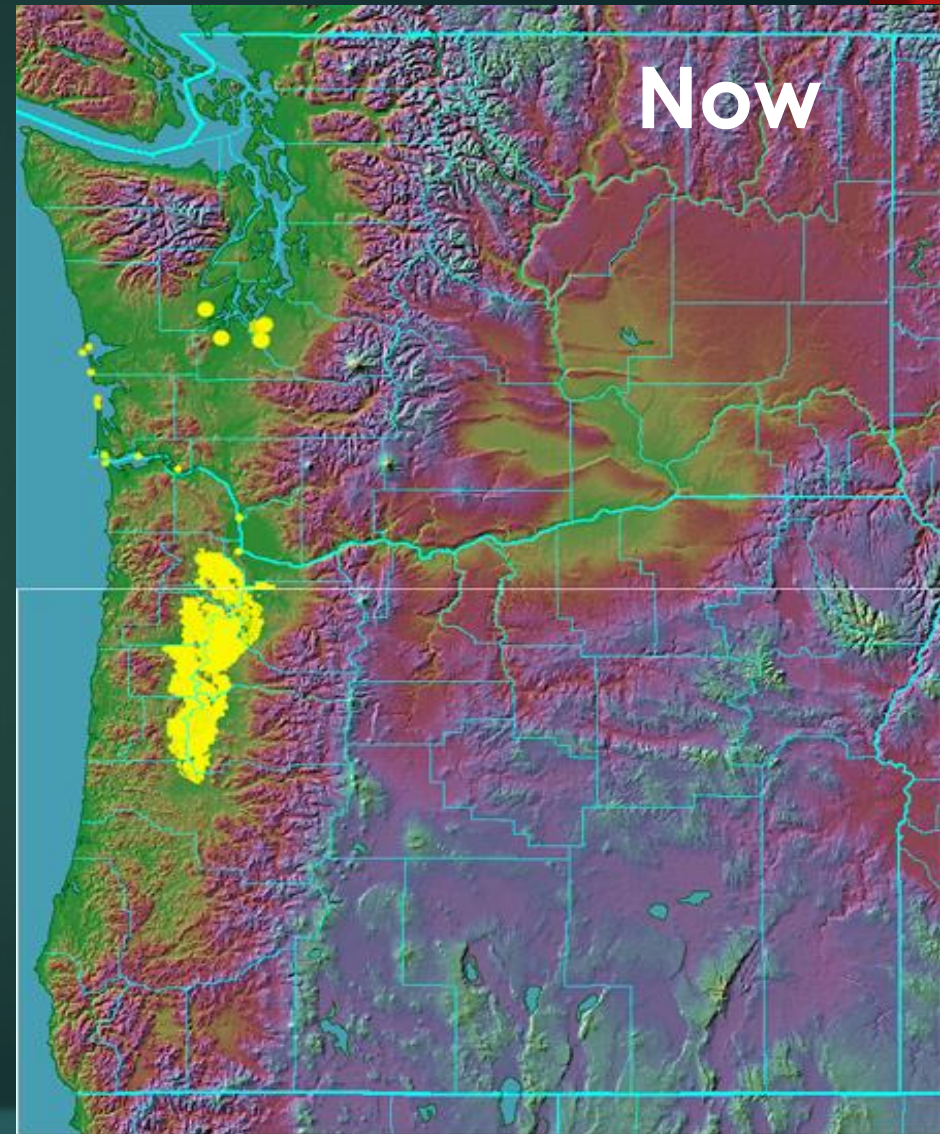
Geographic Range



Distribution

- ▶ Abundance
 - ▶ More in OR than WA
 - ▶ No formal estimates of abundance

Low-mid 1,000's





Natural History- Breeding Habitat, WA



Remnant Glacial Outwash Prairie

Natural History- Breeding Habitat, WA



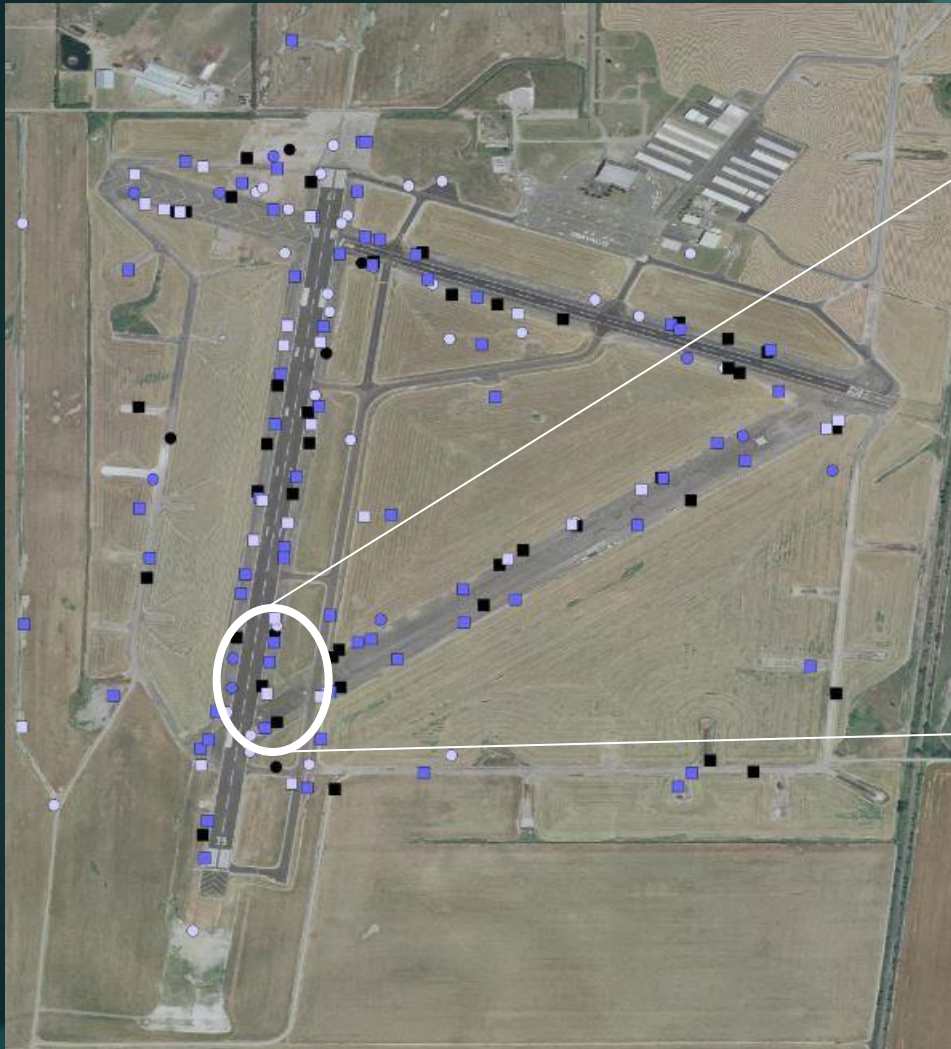
Ocean foredune and accretion flats

Natural History- Breeding Habitat, WA



Dredge material deposition sites

Natural History- Breeding Habitat, OR



Airport and Industrial sites

Natural History- Breeding Habitat, OR



AGRICULTURAL FIELDS



Natural History- Breeding Habitat, OR

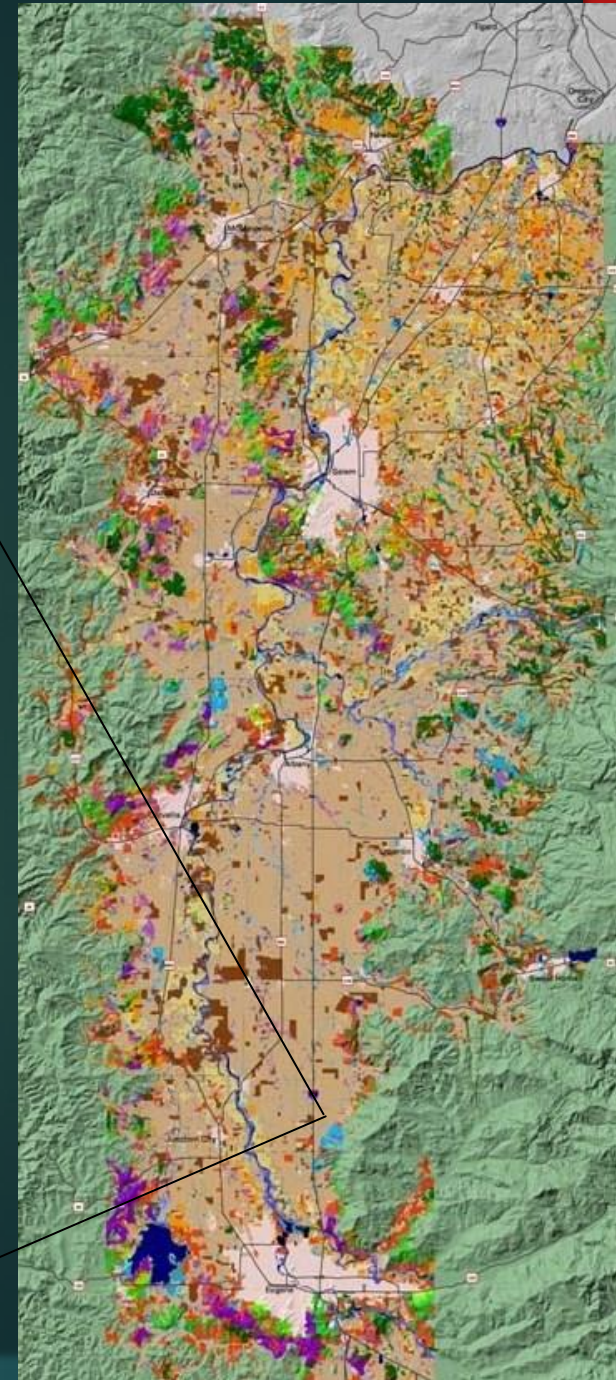


VERNAL WETLANDS AND AGRICULTURAL ROAD MARGINS

A Tale of Two “Prairies”



A Tale of Two “Prairies”



Corvallis Municipal Airport

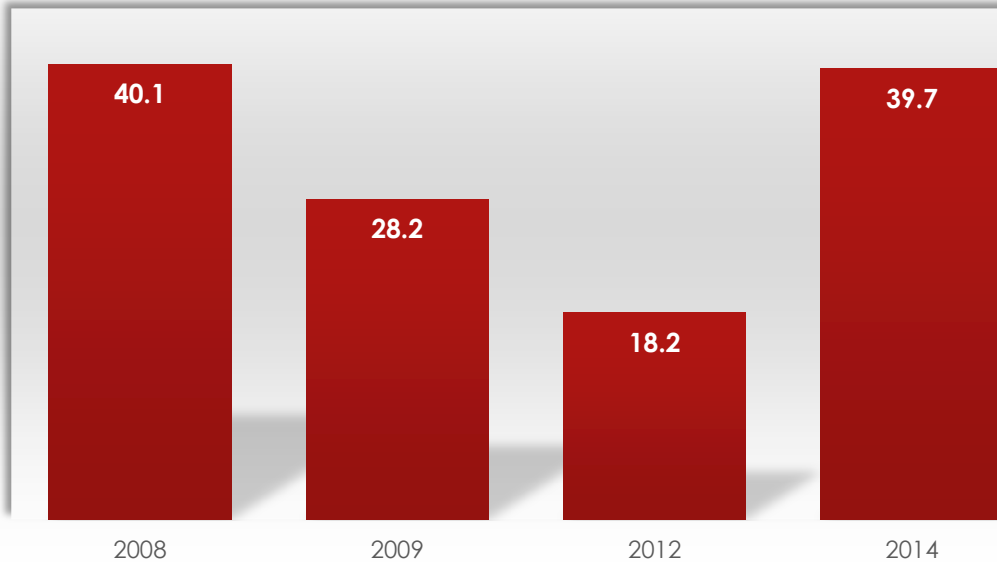


- ▶ Occupied Annually
- ▶ Typically 60-80 pairs
- ▶ 25-35 pairs last 2 years

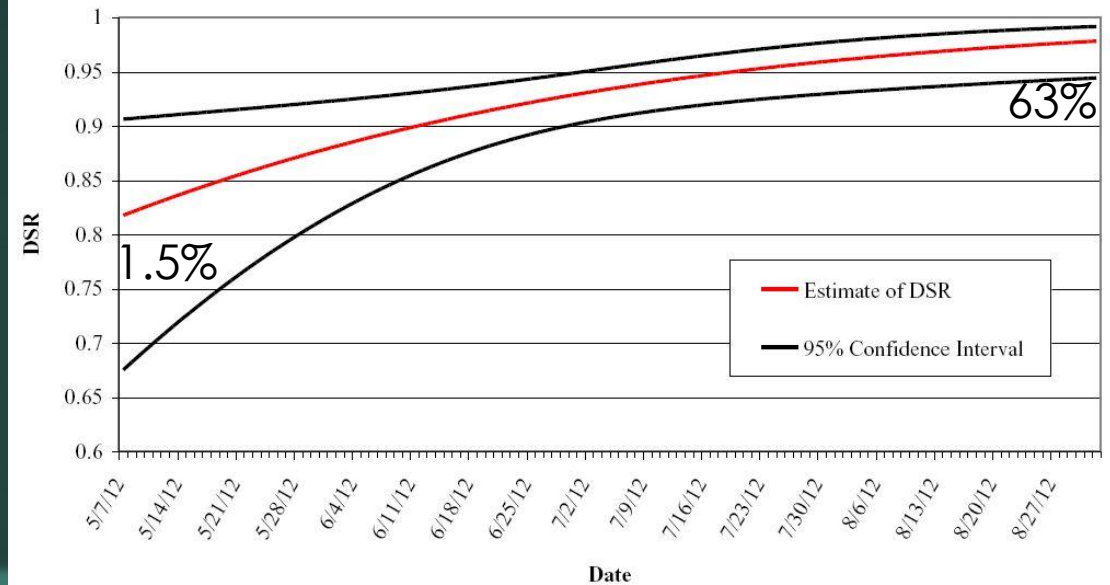


Corvallis Municipal Airport

Nest Success- CVO



Change in Daily Survival Rate of STHL Nests, 2012



MDAC Farms



- ▶ Occupied Annually, but at very low density

MDAC Farms- 2007

- ▶ Rye grass crop destroyed
- ▶ 25+ Pairs colonize mid-season



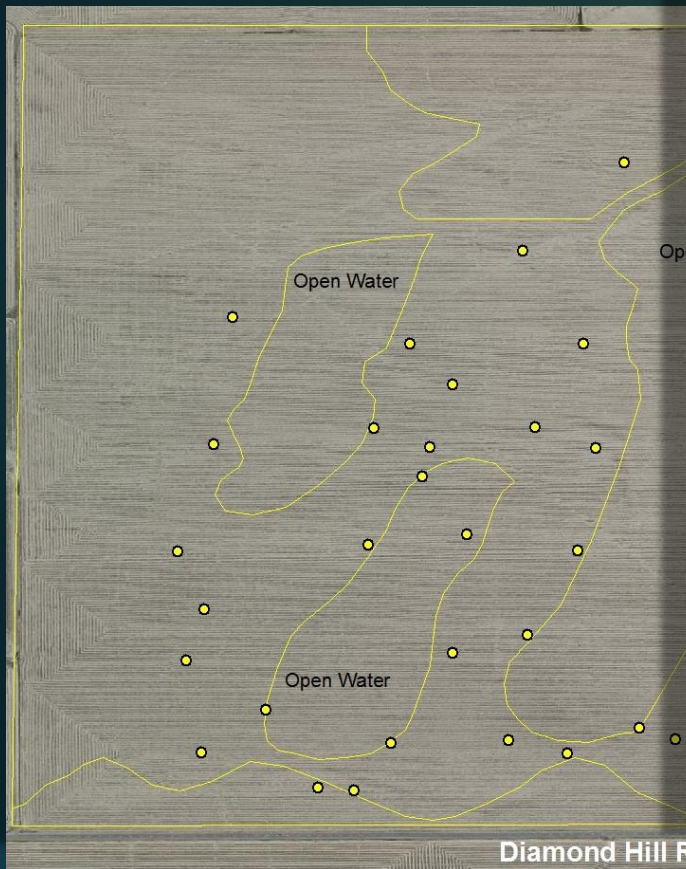
MDAC Farms- 2008



- ▶ Upland portions an invasive nightmare
- ▶ Sprayed again with glyphosate
- ▶ Earthworks created for ponds

MDAC Farms- 2008

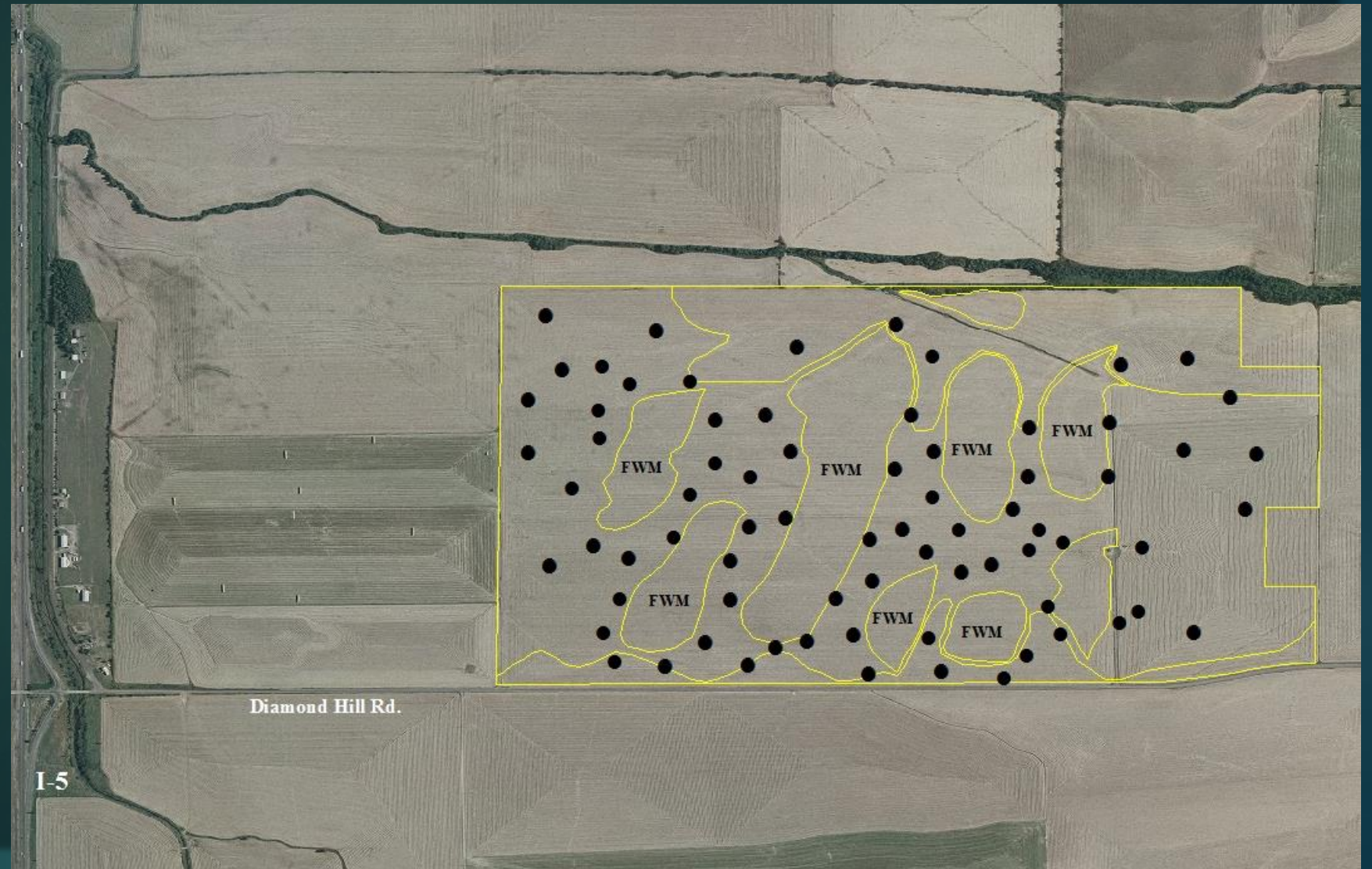
► 2008: ~75 pairs



MDAC Farms- 2009



MDAC Farms- 2009



MDAC Farms- 2010



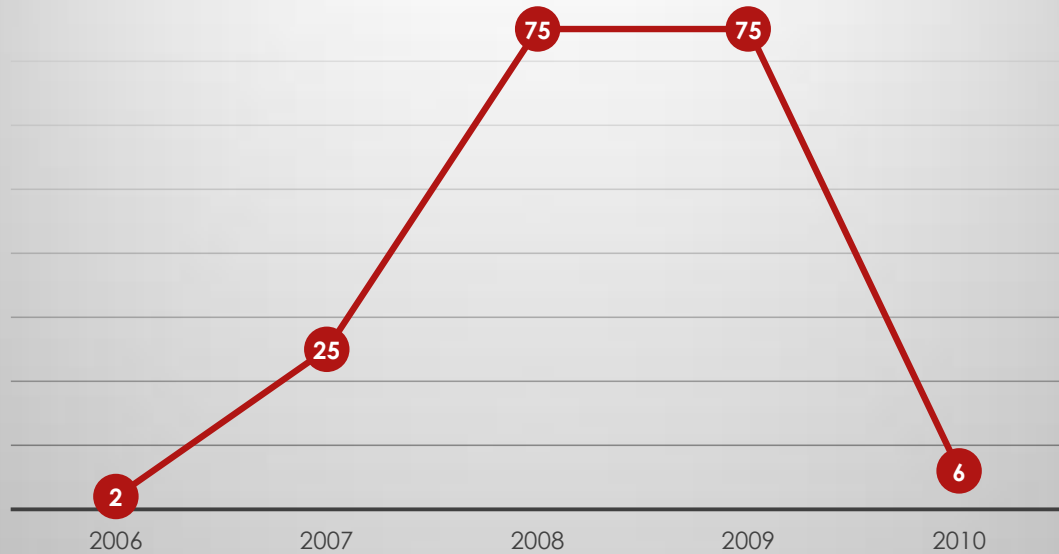
MDAC Farms- 2010



► 2010: ~6 pairs

MDAC Farms

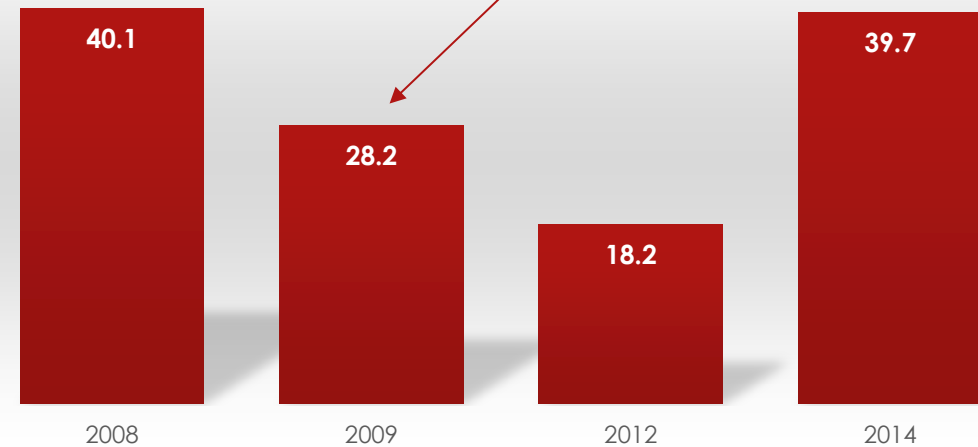
Streaked Horned Lark Pairs



MDAC- Nest Success



CVO- Nest Success



Conservation



Can Native prairies contribute to SHLA conservation in Oregon?

YES

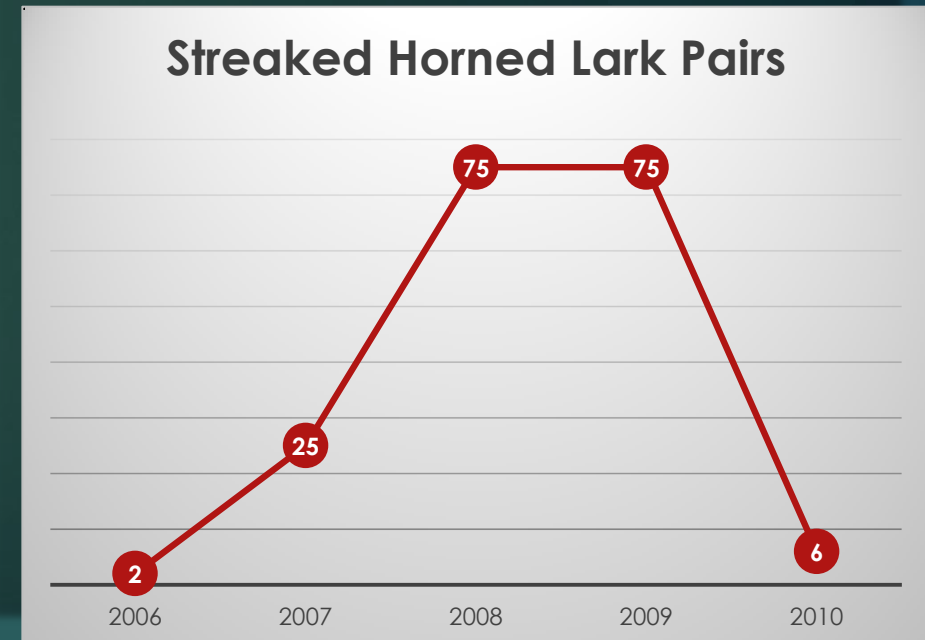


With some great big caveats, and a dash of wishy-washiness.

Conservation



In the short term, the answer is an unequivocal yes.



Conservation

In the long term, it depends on several factors:

- Do you need/want only a few pairs?
 - Vernal wetland component may provide a few for at least long-ish term



Conservation



- Do you need/want more than that?

- For more than a few, there must be a consistent source of disturbance

- Disking
- Spraying
- Burning
- Grazing
- Mowing
- Flooding

- For a consistent source of disturbance, there must be a consistent source of management

- Dedicated set-aside



Conservation

They're going to need the help

