

Mazama Meadows Background

The Mazama Meadows Conservation Bank will compensate for unavoidable impacts to species and habitat regulated under federal, state or county laws. It eases the mitigation process by providing speed and clarity of costs for mitigation.

Specifically the Bank was established to a) protect the state and federally listed (threatened) Yelm pocket gopher (*Thomomys mazama spp. yelmensis*), and b) to support the Thurston County Critical Areas Ordinance goal of protecting important habitat, including prairie habitat. The County and USFWS are the Oversight Agencies.

The Bank owner and land manager is CNLM who is responsible for managing and monitoring the Bank and restoring and maintaining habitat and conservation values. Management tasks will be funded through the Endowment Fund, which will also be managed by CNLM. Restoration of the Bank's habitats is needed to maximize the credits available for sale through the Bank. These restoration actions will be conducted by CNLM.

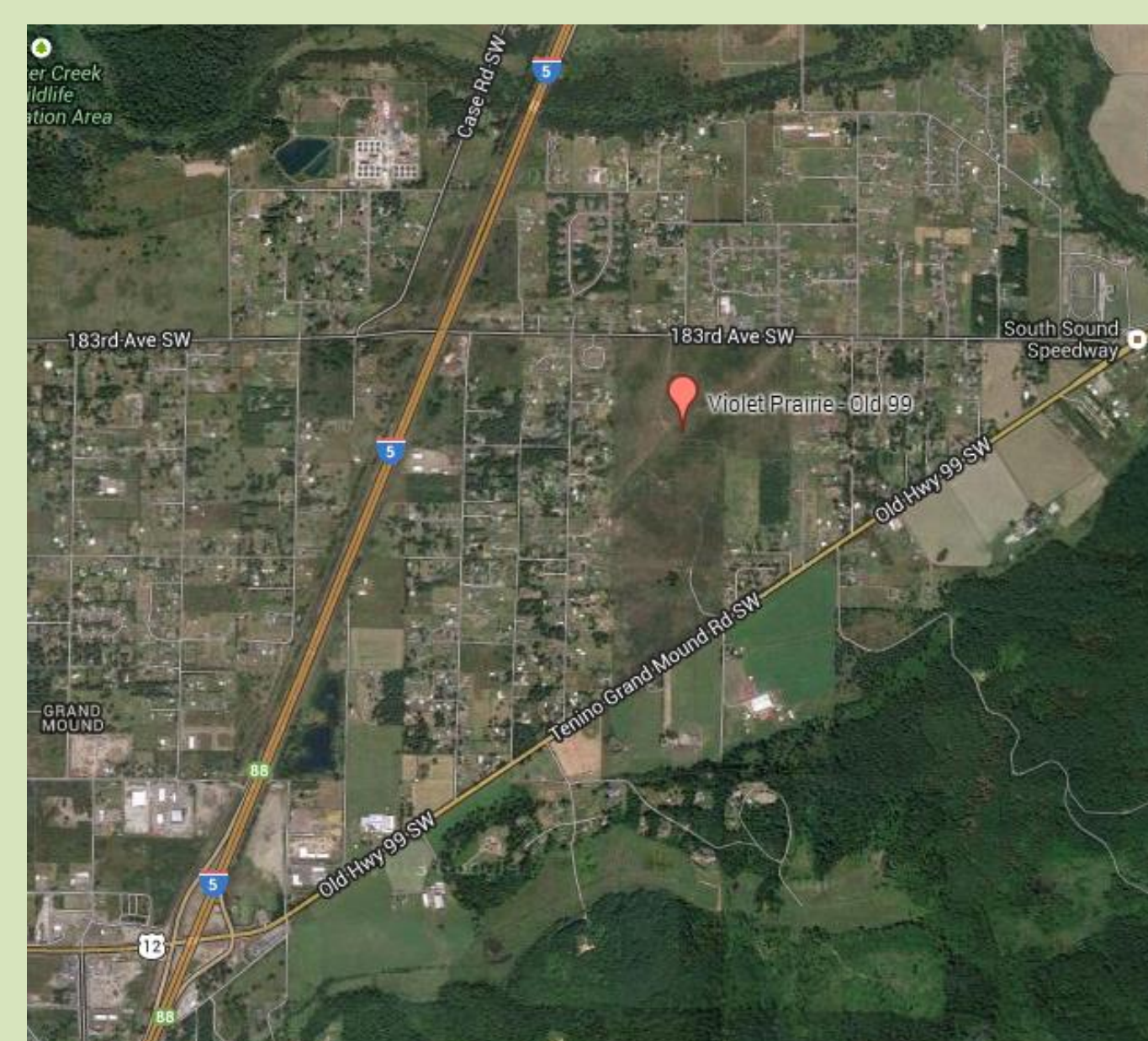
Cost of credits reflect the acquisition, restoration, management endowment, research and administrative costs. The number of credits is dependent on the conservation values obtained at the Bank.

The 140 acre Bank is scheduled to open in early 2016.

Property Boundaries of Mazama Meadows.



Location of Mazama Meadows in South Thurston County.



The **Center for Natural Lands Management** (CNLM) is a non-profit conservation organization that conserves native species and their habitat in perpetuity through land protection, research, partnerships, and science-based stewardship. CNLM owns 75 preserves along the west coast and holds an \$80M endowment to ensure perpetual stewardship of those lands.

Mazama Meadows: Phases of Conservation

Table 4: Timeline of management and monitoring activities by Phase.

Activities	Year	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15..
Management		Initial Phase			Intermediate Phase						Final Phase						
Restoration		Initial to Intermediate			Intermediate to Final												
Credit Release		X				X						X					
Biological Performance Monitoring																	
• PHAM Monitoring w/ Native Diversity		X			X			X			X						X
• Butterfly and Bird Monitoring																	X
• Restoration Monitoring			X	X		X	X		X	X							

Basic Ecological Goals

Initial Phase – Maintain initial vegetation and gopher values. Primarily Scotch broom with pockets of native and non-native grasslands with gophers. Gophers occur on 12% of Bank.

Intermediate Phase – Maintain and enhance the grassland habitat structure. Includes mainly native and degraded grassland, but with considerably less Scotch broom. Gopher area of occupancy increases by 50% to 18%.

Final Phase – Majority of the Bank is composed of native grassland with patches of high-quality grassland. Gopher usage of the Bank increases to 36% area of occupancy.



CNLM South Sound Conservation Strategies

- 1) Protection** – The South Sound Prairies Team within CNLM works with partners across the region to protect geographically and biologically important lands for rare species habitat. Two national programs have provided support for this effort: The Army Compatible Use Buffer Program and the Sentinel Landscape Program.

Army Compatible Use Buffer Program

Collaborative program that helps sustain military readiness by minimizing the consequences of listing of federal species through acquisition, restoration, and species reintroductions.



- 2) Restoration** – Because high quality prairie habitat is severely lacking, regional partners share resources and infrastructure to enhance habitat quality for the listed species using a range of restoration tools:



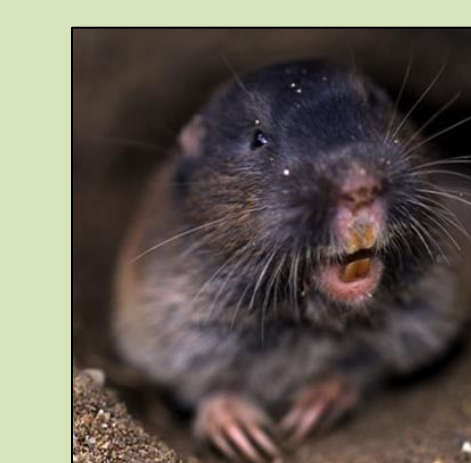
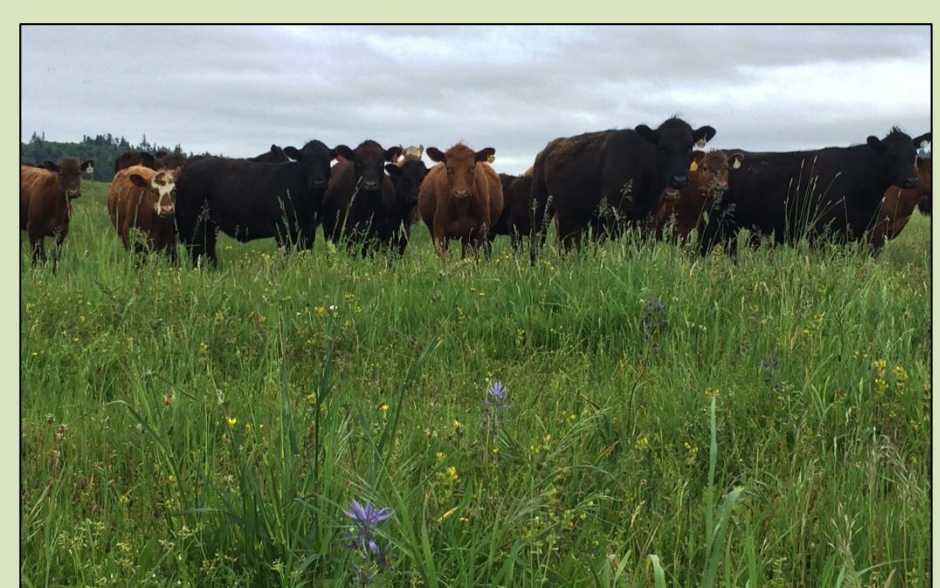
- 3) Research** – Restoration and conservation actions are guided by research findings on a wide variety of topics:

- Effects of fire season and severity on plant communities
- Herbicide type and application season on non-native grass removal
- Mycorrhizal fungi and native plant establishment
- Native seeding methods and rates
- Butterfly preference for various host plants
- Role of grazing as a management tool



- 4) Cooperative Conservation**

- Close partnerships with state and federal agencies and private landowners allow us to protect and manage lands with diverse uses for native prairie species.
- By generating incentives and linking entities, we have identified shared goals across agency and property lines.



Mazama pocket gopher (*Thomomys mazama*)

- Four subspecies listed as threatened in 2014
- Inhabits prairie soils dominated by grass and forb species
- Only found in two counties in Washington state