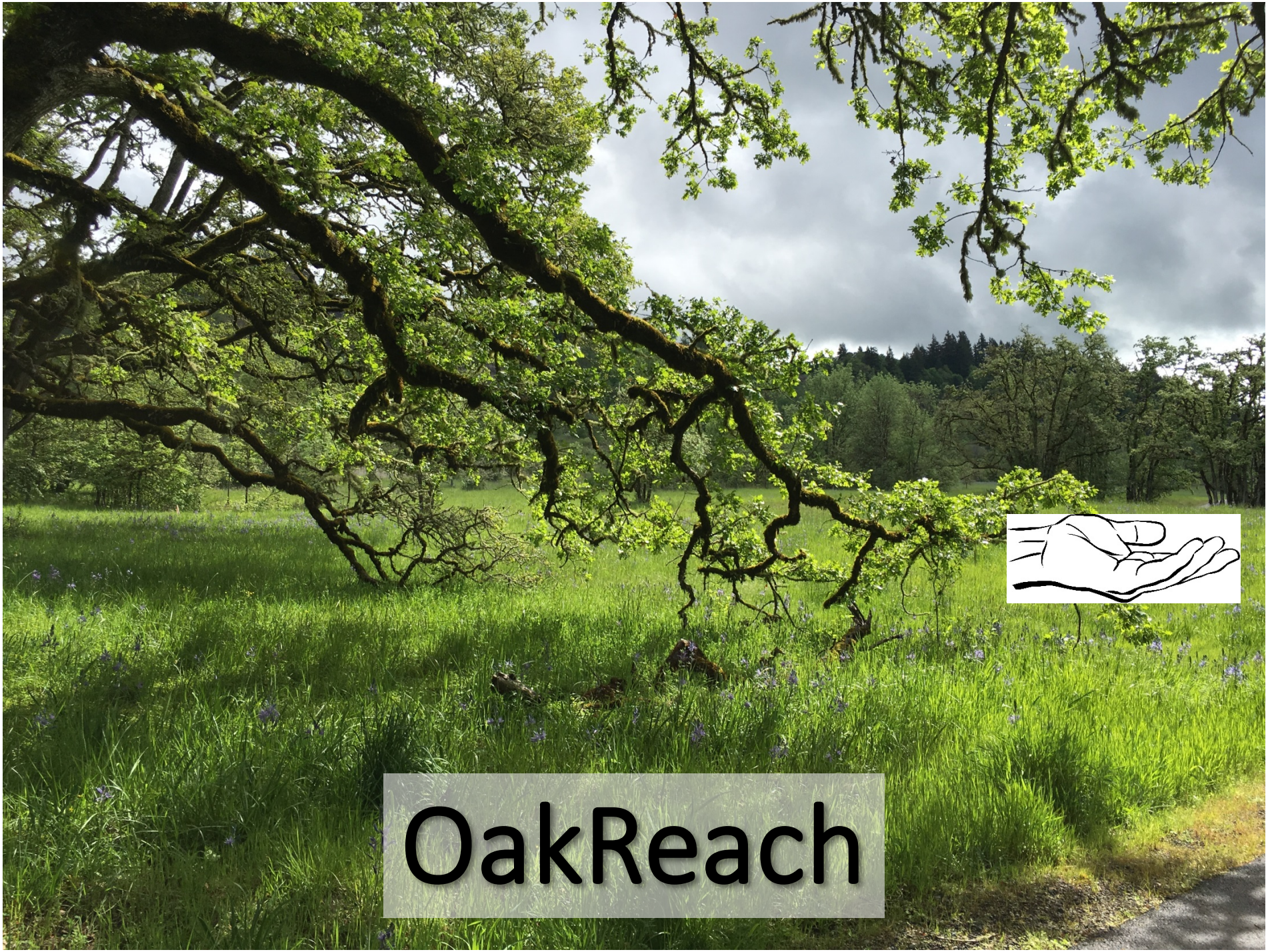
Fostering Public Support of Urban Oak Restoration




OakReach

Restoration Ecology
THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION INTERNATIONAL

RESEARCH ARTICLE

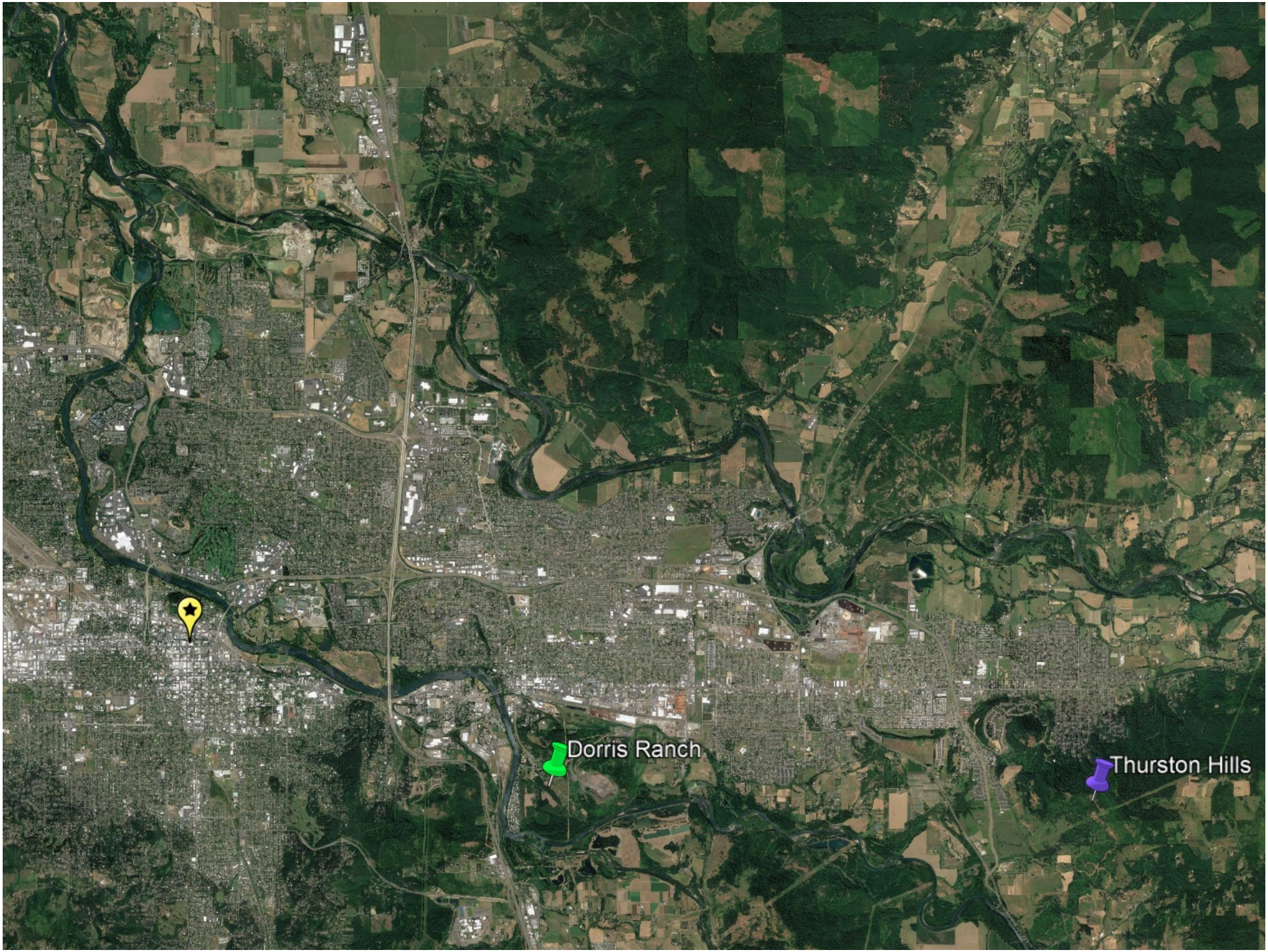
An Evaluation of the Short-Term Progress of Restoration Combining Ecological Assessment and Public Perception

Thorunn Petursdottir,[1,2] Asa L. Aradottir,[3] and Karl Benediktsson[4]

Abstract

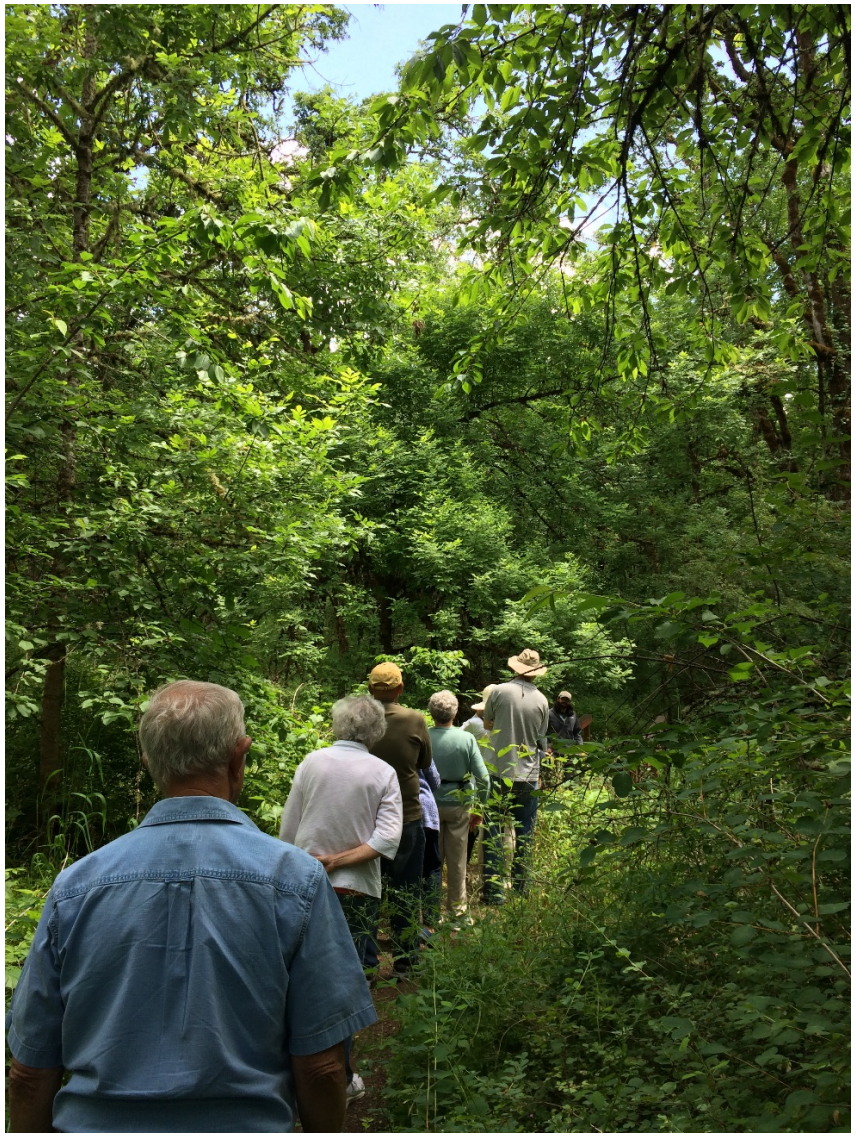
Ecological restoration centers on the reestablishment of ecological processes and the integrity of degraded ecosystems, but its success also depends on public acceptance and support. In this study, we evaluated the short-term ecological effects of different restoration treatments in Iceland. Furthermore, we tested the public perception of aesthetic and recreational values of these revegetated areas. Predefined soil and vegetation indicators were measured, and a survey, based on a questionnaire and photographs of the different areas, was used for gauging public perception. Our results indicate that different restoration treatments triggered different succession trajectories. The vegetation composition of areas seeded with grasses seemed to be on a trajectory toward relatively undisturbed reference ecosystems, whereas areas seeded with nonnative lupine seemed to be developing a novel ecosystem. Results of the survey demonstrated that people valued the appearance of revegetated areas higher than that of the eroded control areas, with the exception of areas seeded with lupine. The visual perception of each restoration treatment corresponded well with the ecological factors and revealed both a social and an ecological rationale against the use of lupine in land restoration. The results indicate that the design of restoration projects should be based on both an analysis of sociocultural priorities and an understanding of possible trajectories of ecosystem development associated with the available restoration methods to avoid results that are neither socially acceptable nor ecologically feasible.

Key words: aesthetic values, ecological evaluation, ecological restoration, public opinion, sociocultural evaluation, soil degradation.


Dorris Ranch
Thurston Hills


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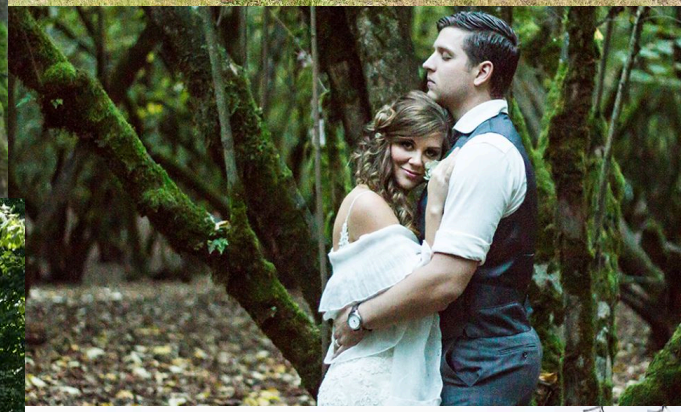




Dorris Ranch




























Trail Closed
OAK RESTORATION IN PROGRESS
DORRIS RANCH


OAK RESTORATION IN PROGRESS
REMOVING INVASIVE SPECIES TO PROTECT RARE HABITAT
Willamalane and the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council are working together to restore the oak woodland and prairie habitats at Dorris Ranch. As invasive plants have moved in and trees have encroached, oak habitats are disappearing from Oregon, along with the native animals, insects and plants that depend on them. This project will:
Stop the encroachment of Douglas-fir trees into oak woodland using low-impact logging equipment.
Work to remove invasive plants such as false brome, meadow knapweed and Himalayan blackberry.
Remove non-native trees including black walnut, cherry, pear and hawthorn.
When invasive plants move in, they crowd out natives.
Plants targeted for removal include:
Sweet cherry
Himalayan blackberry
Meadow knapweed
Hawthorn

Dorris Ranch – Middle Fo

Secure | https://www.middleforkwillamette.org/restore/oak-savannas-and-woodlands/dorris-ranch/

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DORRIS RANCH OAK RESTORATION

LOCATION

Dorris Ranch Living History Farm, Springfield, OR

TARGET HABITAT

Oak woodland and prairie

TIMELINE

2016-18 with oak release in fall 2017

PROJECT SIZE

48 acres (15 acres woodland, 33 acres prairie)

PARTNERS

Willamalane Park a



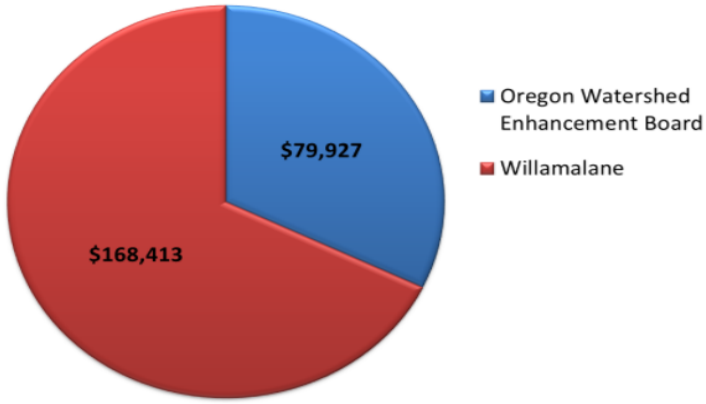
Dorris Ranch – Middle Fo

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FUNDING



SUMMARY

Located at the confluence of the Middle and Coast Fork Willamette Rivers, Dorris Ranch Living History Farm is one of Springfield's treasured open spaces. In partnership with Willamalane, we are restoring 15 acres of oak woodland and 33 acres of prairie. Historically, this woodland was dominated by Oregon white oak but over the past century Douglas fir, bigleaf maple, Oregon ash and cherry have taken over. These trees were outcompeting the oak trees for sunlight and other important resources and reducing key habitat for species like the acorn woodpecker, nuthatch, northern pygmy owl and western gray squirrel. To remedy this problem, in fall 2017 we released the oak trees by thinning out the majority of the non-desirable trees. The result is a much more open woodland that will allow the Oregon white oak to receive sufficient sunlight and grow to be healthy, majestic trees. In the savanna, contractors have been removing invasive species since 2016 and will continue to do so for several years in order to restore its historic condition and benefit wildlife that rely on it.

PHOTOS

These photos highlight our work at Dorris Ranch. For more please visit our facebook album.

AT&T LTE 6:01 PM 51%

Photo

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Dorris Ranch



View Insights Promote

Liked by **cityofspringfieldoregon**, **dylanjdarling** and **36 others**

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FEB
24

Dorris Ranch Community Planting Event

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council and 2 others · Public

Check In

Going Invite More

Saturday, Feb 24 at 9 AM - 1 PM
about 1 month ago

Dorris Ranch



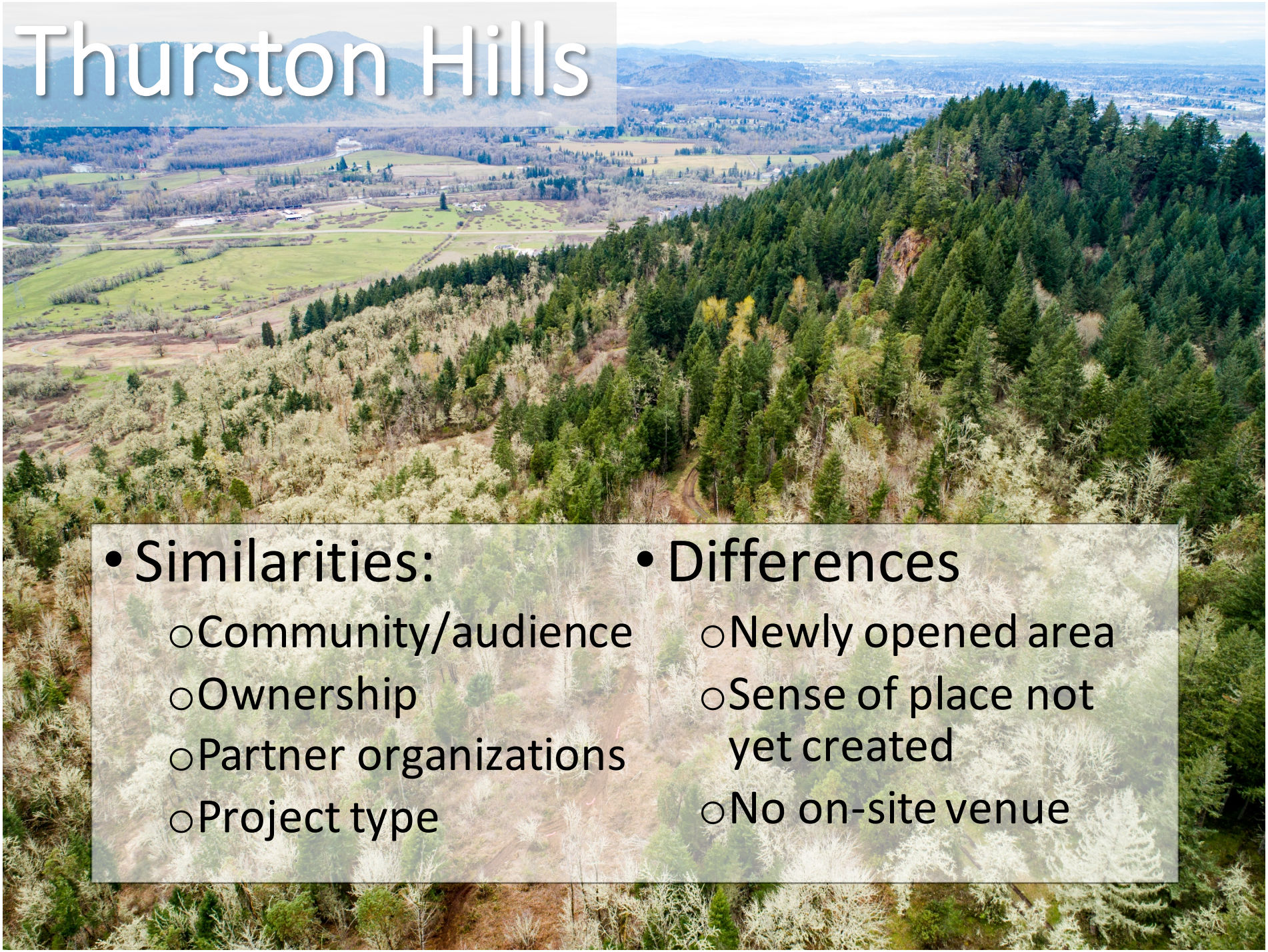








Thurston Hills



- Similarities:
  - Community/audience
  - Ownership
  - Partner organizations
  - Project type
- Differences
  - Newly opened area
  - Sense of place not yet created
  - No on-site venue

willamalane
Park and Recreation District

Middle Fork Willamette
WATERSHED
COUNCIL

Coming to your neighborhood this spring!

Thurston Hills Natural Area
Fire Risk Reduction Project and Oak Habitat Restoration

The first phase of these projects will begin in March 2018. Future work will continue through Spring 2020

Starting this March look for work being done in your neighborhood at Thurston Hills Natural Area to help reduce the severity of possible forest fires and to help restore native oak habitat. Willamalane, the BLM, and the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council are working together to help make Thurston Hills a safer and more enjoyable place to live and recreate.

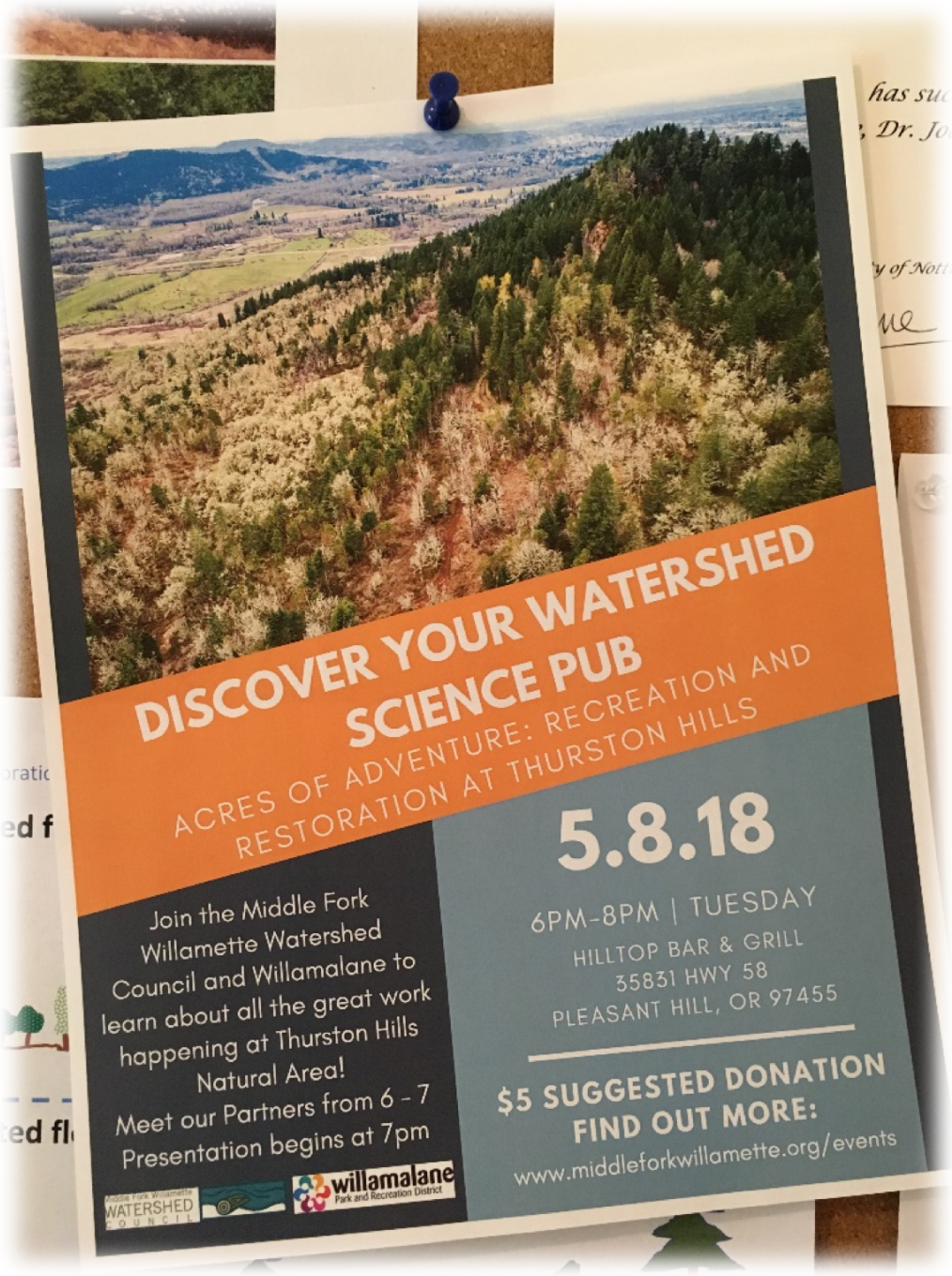
Both projects will focus on removing some trees, blackberries, and dense shrubs. To help reduce fire risk the road into Thurston Hills Natural Area will be improved to help emergency vehicles access remote areas and to create a fire break. The oak restoration will also plant native species to help support the woodland and prairie.


Disciples of Dirt
Mountain Bike Club
Disciples of Dirt
Mountain Bike Club








DISCOVER YOUR WATERSHED SCIENCE PUB
ACRES OF ADVENTURE: RECREATION AND RESTORATION AT THURSTON HILLS
Join the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council and Willamalane to learn about all the great work happening at Thurston Hills Natural Area!
Meet our Partners from 6 - 7
Presentation begins at 7pm
5.8.18
6PM-8PM | TUESDAY
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