

2022 CASCADIA PRAIRIE-OAK PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

Oak and Prairie Conservation at a Crossroads: Setting a Path for Success

November 7-10 | Vancouver, WA



Cascadia
Prairie-Oak
Partnership

Mon. Nov. 7 | Field Trips
Tues. Nov. 8 | Conference
Wed. Nov. 9 | Conference
Thur. Nov. 10 | Conference

Conference Information
cascadiaprairieoak.org/2022conference

Field Trips | Monday, November 7

Transportation will not be provided for field trips this year – carpooling is recommended. Lunch will be provided on full day trips (Trip B is afternoon only). Select your field trip of choice when you register for the conference – there is a \$20 fee for Trips A, C, and D and a \$10 fee for Trip B, which is afternoon only. More information and detailed driving/meet up directions will be provided to registered attendees this fall, prior to the field trip.

Trip A: White Salmon Oaks NRCA – Limit 20 people. *Trip will be cancelled if less than 5 people register. In the case of snow at the site, attendees will have the option to be refunded or be reassigned to a different trip.*

Trip Leads: Keyna Bugner, Washington DNR SE Region Natural Areas Manager; Lindsay Cornelius, Columbia Land Trust Natural Area Manager and East Cascades Oak Partnerships Manager

Time and Location: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm. Site is approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes from Portland/Vancouver.

Oregon white oaks east of the Cascades grow in a remarkably different context from their Willamette Valley counterparts. With different fire regimes, climatic factors, cultural ecology, land use pressures, and plant associations, we are just beginning to understand how these systems need to be managed for ecological integrity and climate resilience. The White Salmon Oaks Natural Resource Conservation Area, owned and managed by WA DNR Natural Areas Program, provides an excellent look at intact oak woodlands, mixed-oak and conifer woodland, and savanna east of the Cascade Mountains. This tour will take you up the 2.5-mile historic Weldon Wagon Trail, a dirt track used in the 1900's to transport apples from farms on the plateau to the White Salmon River, through a variety of East Cascades oak systems. Lace up your boots!

Access: 5 mile out and back hike, 1340 ft elevation gain on dirt trail (moderate difficulty). Restrooms and parking at trailhead.

White Salmon Oaks NRCA



Trip B: St. Johns Prairie – Limit 30 people [Afternoon Only]

Trip Leads: **Andrea Berkley**, Metro Senior Natural Resource Scientist; **Adrienne St. Clair**, Metro Associate Scientist; and, **Katy Weil**, Metro Senior Natural Resources Scientist

Time and Location: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Site is approximately 30 minutes from the hotel.

Join Metro staff and partners for visit to a closed 250-acre landfill in the process of conversion from infrastructure and exotic grasses to a diverse prairie plant community with dozens of native species. We will discuss the unusual environment provided by the landfill cap and the challenges of building a prairie on it. Challenges include the extended time required for perennial forbs to establish, recognizing the exotics that pose a threat and those that seem neutral to restoration success, and the complexity of getting more than 2,000 pounds of 50 species of native seed ready and on the ground. We will discuss the response of birds to habitat improvements that began with a modest proposal in the early 2000s to avoid mowing during nesting season on part of the landfill. There are two units dedicated to compatible management for Streaked Horned Lark, and we will discuss efforts to attract them from nearby areas destined for development. Rattail fescue (*Vulpia*) is a challenge in one unit, and **Sarah Hamman**, Director of Science for **Ecostudies Institute** will talk about research on control methods and their efficacy. **Tom Kaye**, Executive Director for the **Institute for Applied Ecology** will discuss a plot that is part of RestoreNet.

Access: Uneven ground, gentle slopes. Restrooms available at parking area.



Trip C: Washougal Oaks Natural Area – Limit 12 people

Trip Lead: **Carlo Abbruzzese**, Washington DNR Pacific Cascades Region Natural Areas Manager

Time and Location: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Site is located approximately 20 miles from hotel.

This combined natural area preserve (NAP) and natural resources conservation area (NRCA) protects the largest remaining high quality Garry oak (Oregon white oak) woodland in western Washington, as well as several rare plants, a stream corridor, and fish and wildlife habitat. The site is representative of the native oak woodlands that were once relatively common in the Puget Sound and Willamette Valley regions, but are now exceptionally rare. It protects a historic landscape where Lewis and Clark viewed vast meadows of blue camas stretching up to the oak covered hillsides as they came to the western opening of the Columbia Gorge. The NAP and NRCA combined include 277 acres.

This field trip will include discussions of oak and native shrub plantings in old fields as well as past oak release projects. The site also contains a greenhouse and planting beds that are used to grow native prairie and oak forest plant species and seed production for restoration at Lacamas Prairie Natural Area. We will also discuss weed control efforts on site and other site management such as culvert removal and structure demolition.

Access: This field trip will involve around 1-1.5 miles of walking over relatively flat ground through grasslands and woodland with some bumpy ground. There is poison oak on-site, but we shouldn't be in contact with it. Restrooms available within a few miles from the parking area.

Washougal Oaks



Trip D: Lacamas Prairie Natural Area – Limit 12 people

Trip Lead: David Wilderman, Washington DNR Natural Areas Program Ecologist

Time and Location: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm. Site is located approximately 15 miles from hotel.

This combined natural area preserve (NAP) and natural resources conservation area (NRCA) protects the best known remnant of the Willamette Valley wet prairie ecosystem in Washington. Lacamas Prairie Natural Area, owned and managed by WA DNR Natural Areas Program, also protects high quality Oregon white oak woodlands and populations of six rare plant species, including Bradshaw's lomatium, which until recently was federally listed as "endangered". The prairie remnant occurs in a native valley landscape mosaic with Oregon white oak woodland and Oregon ash wetland forest, set within suburban surroundings. This field trip will highlight restoration efforts on the site including weed and woody plant control, prescribed burning, and prairie and oak planting. <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/lacamas-prairie-natural-area>

Access: The field trip will involve a short (1 mile) walk on flat ground, but includes some hiking through dense brush and down logs. Hidden hummocks are present in some areas making footing unstable. Restrooms available ¼ mile drive from parking area.

Lacamas Prairie

