

The Nature
Conservancy



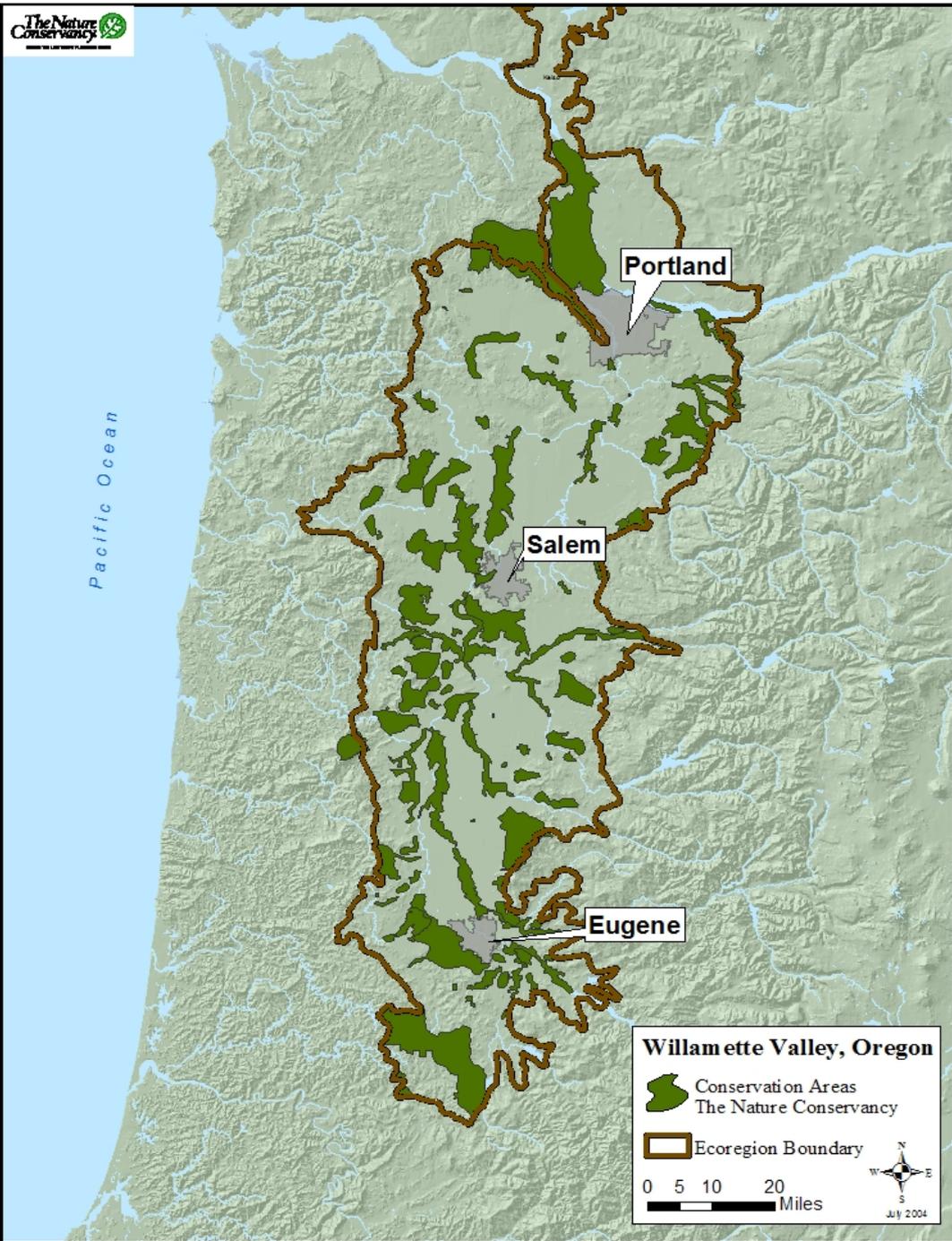
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Title: Amazon Basin/Eugene Wetlands (199205900) and
Willamette Valley Wide Acquisition of Priority Habitats

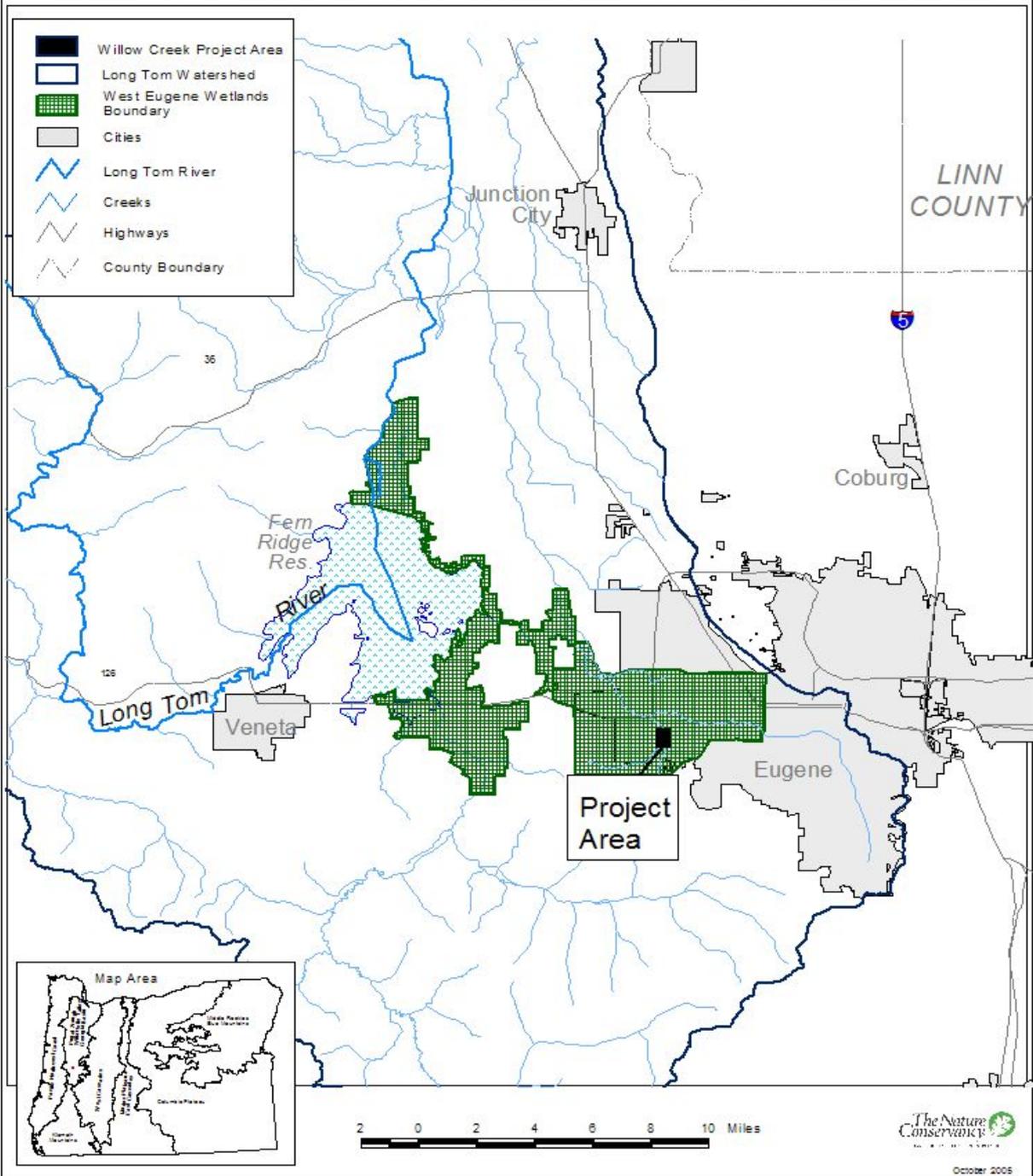
Prepared For: Northwest Power and Conservation
Council's ISRP

Presented By: The Nature Conservancy (Jonathan Soll
and Jason Nuckols)

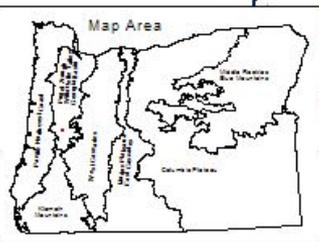
March 3, 2009



Willamette Valley- Puget Trough- Georgia Basin Ecoregion



- Willow Creek Project Area
- Long Tom Watershed
- West Eugene Wetlands Boundary
- Cities
- Long Tom River
- Creeks
- Highways
- County Boundary



October 2005

West Eugene Wetlands Partnership

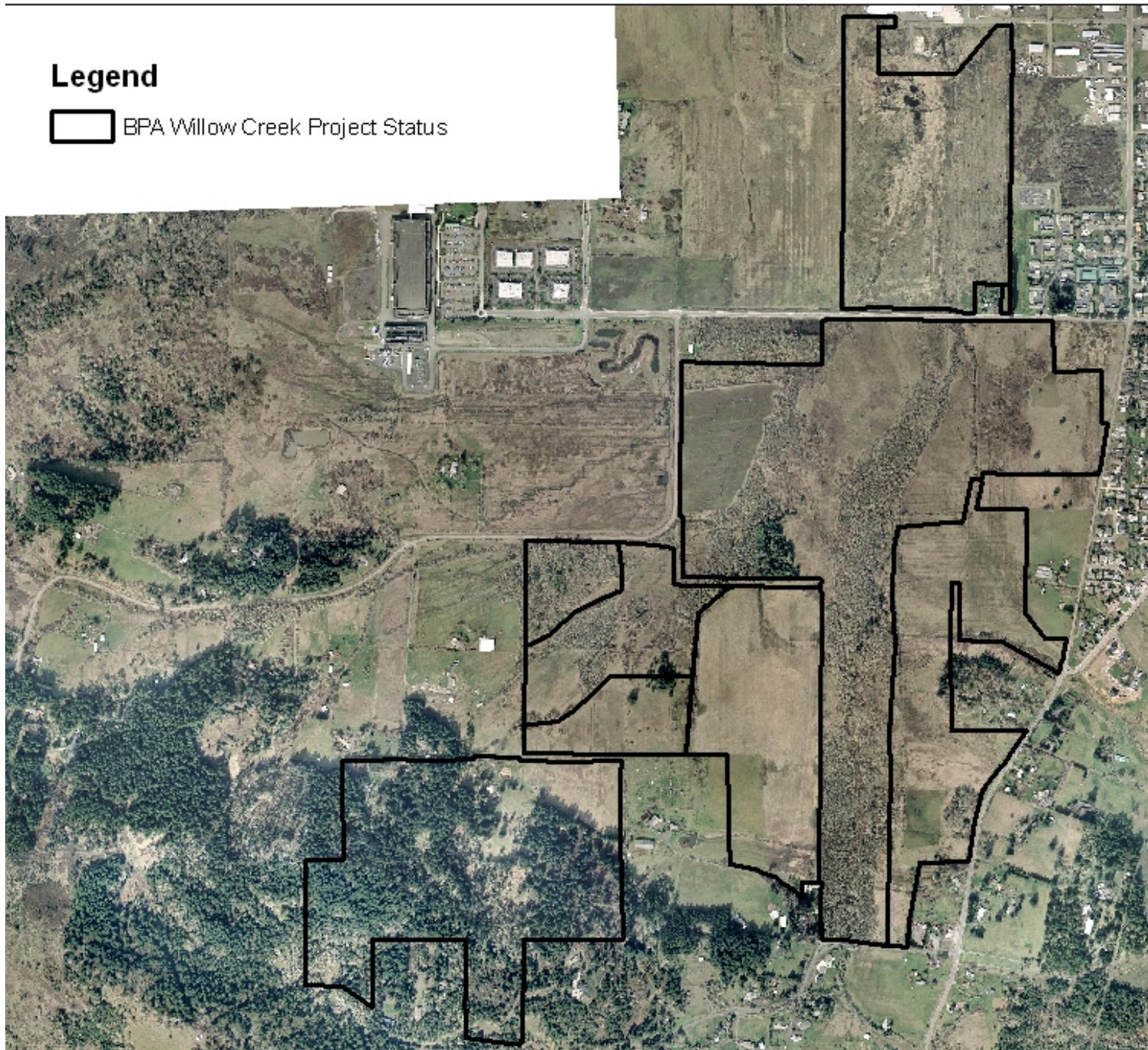


- City of Eugene
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Oregon Youth Conservation Corps
- McKenzie River Trust
- WREN
- Long Tom Watershed Council

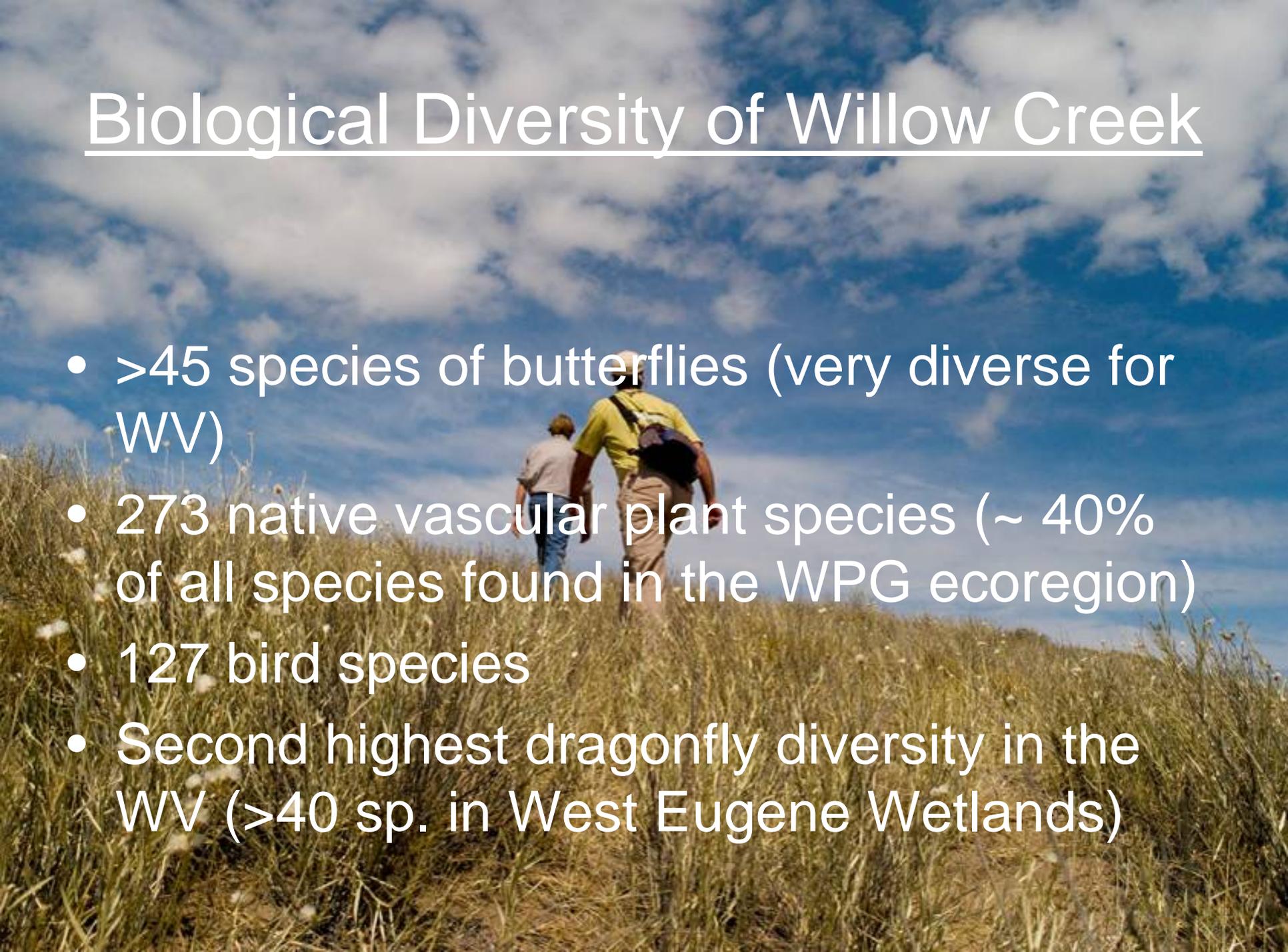
Legend

 BPA Willow Creek Project Status





Biological Diversity of Willow Creek

- >45 species of butterflies (very diverse for WV)
 - 273 native vascular plant species (~ 40% of all species found in the WPG ecoregion)
 - 127 bird species
 - Second highest dragonfly diversity in the WV (>40 sp. in West Eugene Wetlands)
- 
- A photograph of two people hiking through a field of tall, golden-brown grass. The person in the foreground is wearing a yellow shirt and a backpack, while the person behind is wearing a light-colored shirt and blue jeans. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds.

Federally Listed Species



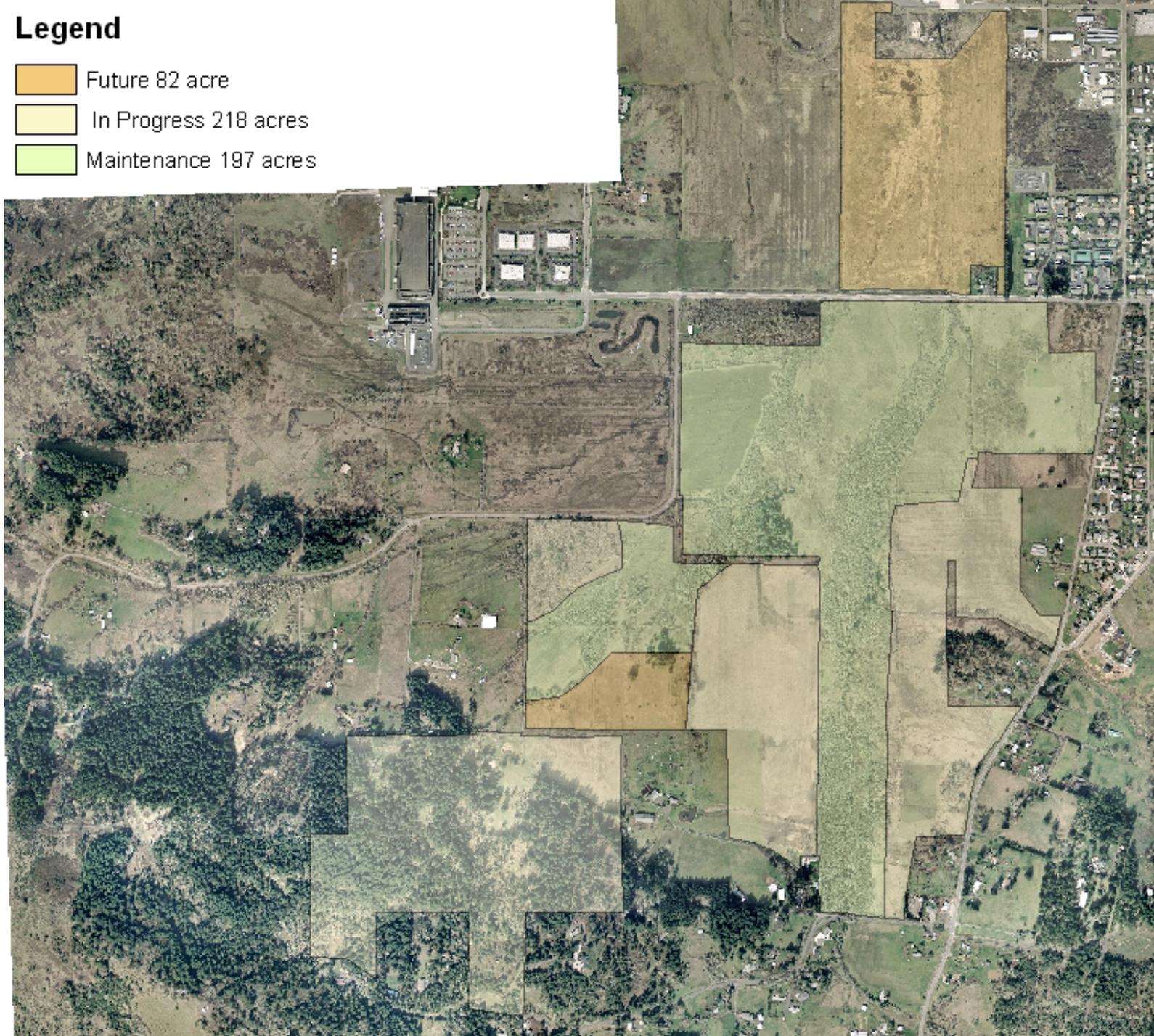
Willow Creek Discoveries

- Oregon White-topped Aster (FSOC) was rediscovered at Willow Creek in 1978 after being assumed extirpated from Oregon since 1918.
- Willamette Daisy (FE) was rediscovered at Willow Creek in 1980 after being assumed extinct since 1934
- The Great Copper butterfly (*Lycaena xanthoides*) was rediscovered at Willow Creek in 2004 after being assumed extirpated from Lane County since 1954.
- *Capnia kersti* (an early winter stonefly) was discovered and named at Willow Creek in 2004 by a volunteer.
- Largest populations of a very rare Sonoran Skipper



Legend

-  Future 82 acre
-  In Progress 218 acres
-  Maintenance 197 acres



Vegetation Management



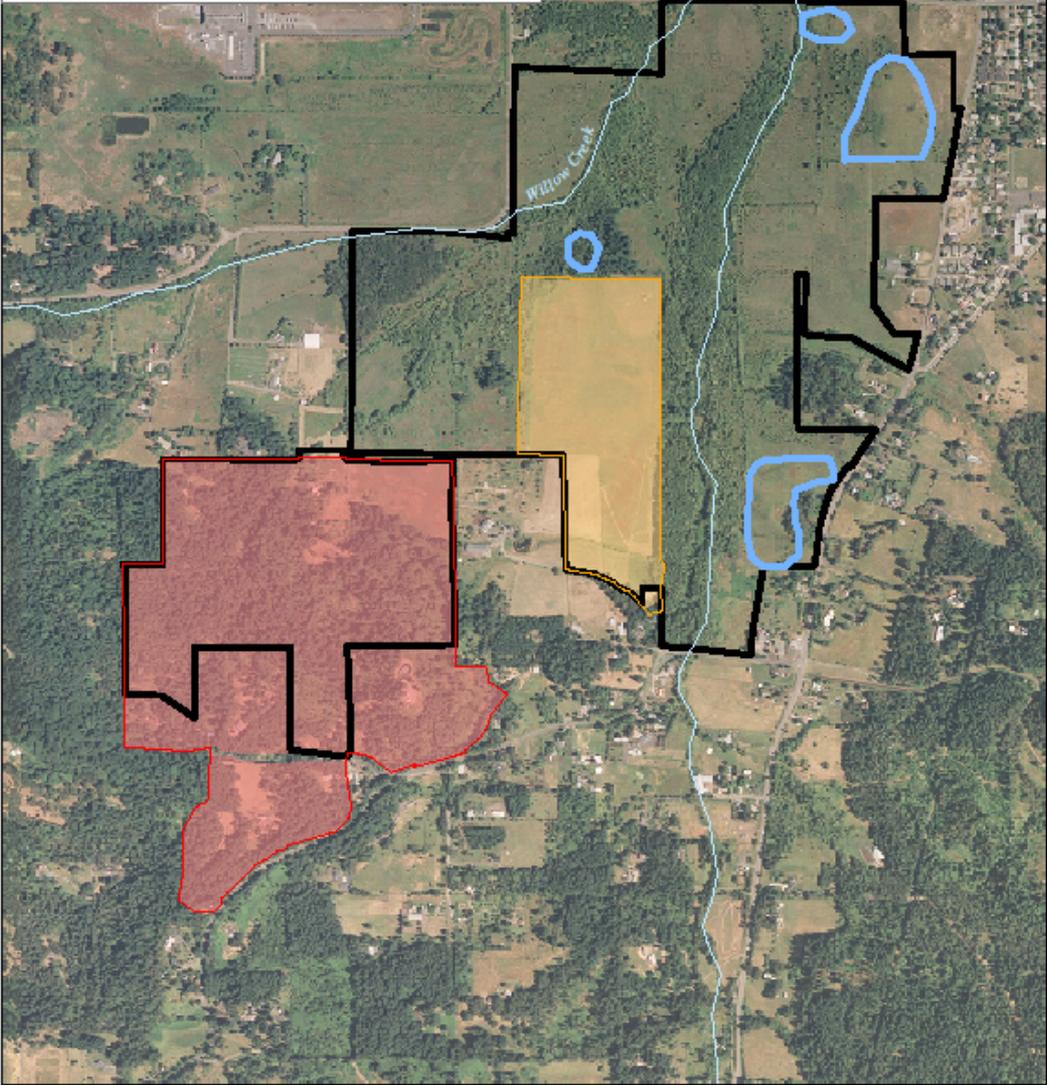
Prairie and Savanna Restoration



Willow Creek Preserve

-  Upland Prairie/Fender's Blue Butterfly Restoration
-  Oak Savanna Restoration
-  Willow Creek Preserve
-  Rivers, Creeks, etc.
-  Current Fender's Blue Butterfly Locations

0 0.1 0.2 Miles 0 0.1 0.2 Kilometers



State and Federal Cost Share

- BLM - restoration, fuels reduction and native plant materials funds
- DSL/USFWS - Fender's monitoring and restoration and Rx fire funds
- ODFW - LIP Grants for Fender's restoration and Oak restoration funds
- OWEB - technical assistance for confluence study
- OR 150 Grant - prairie restoration and western meadowlark habitat expansion

Private Cost Share

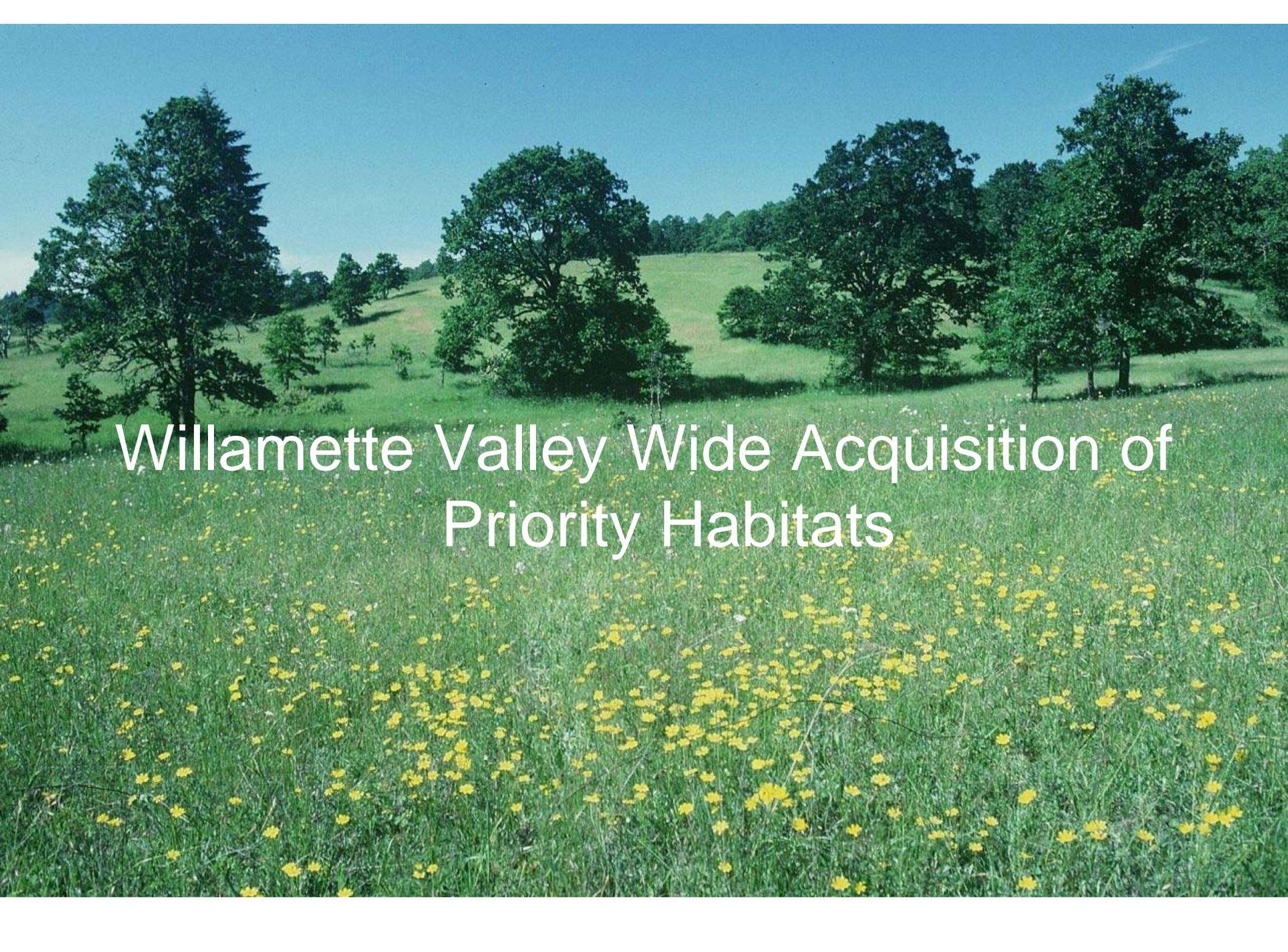
- 16 years of an active volunteer program resulting in >0.5 FTE/yr
 - Youth crews logged > 7,500 hrs in past 11 years
 - One volunteer has logged 4000 hrs in 13 years
 - In 2007-2009 the site benefits from almost 1.0 FTE of Americorps stewardship staff
 - >100 volunteer work parties totaling over 4500 hours
 - >230 volunteer site monitoring visits in 8 yrs

Major ongoing management costs include

- Conducting Controlled Burns cost approximately ~\$10,000/yr
- Non-native vegetation management approximately ~\$40,000/yr
- Native vegetation management costs approximately ~\$10,000/yr
- Native Plant Materials production costs approximately ~\$25,000/yr

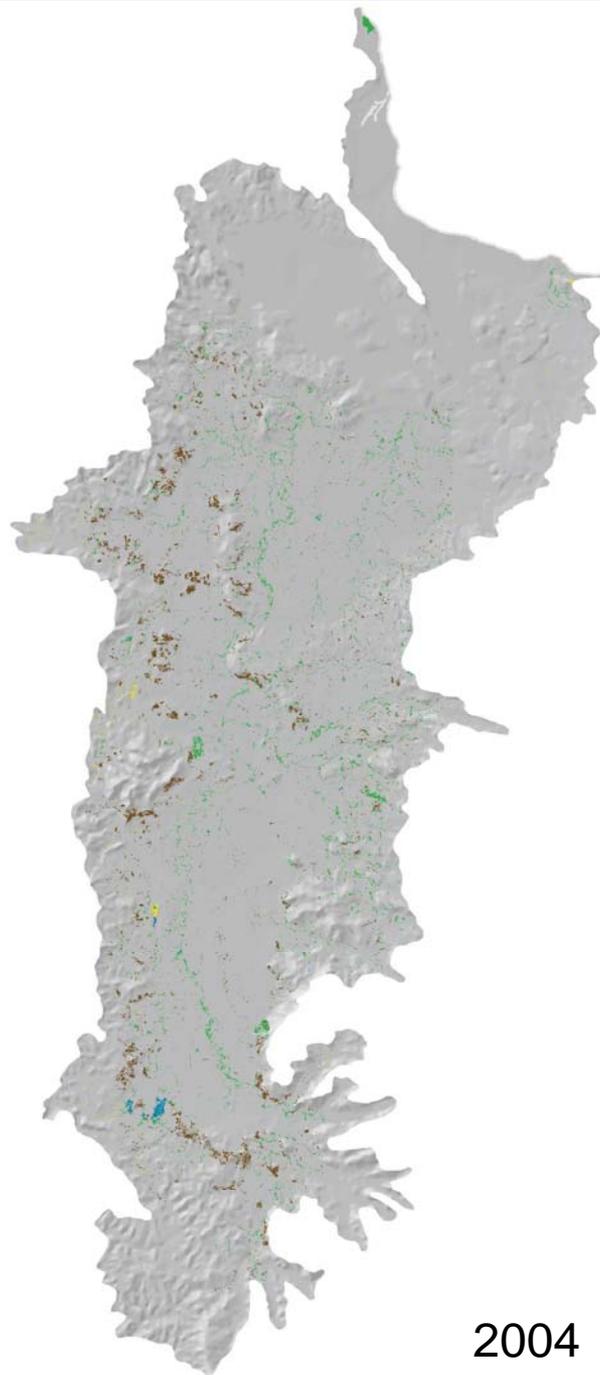
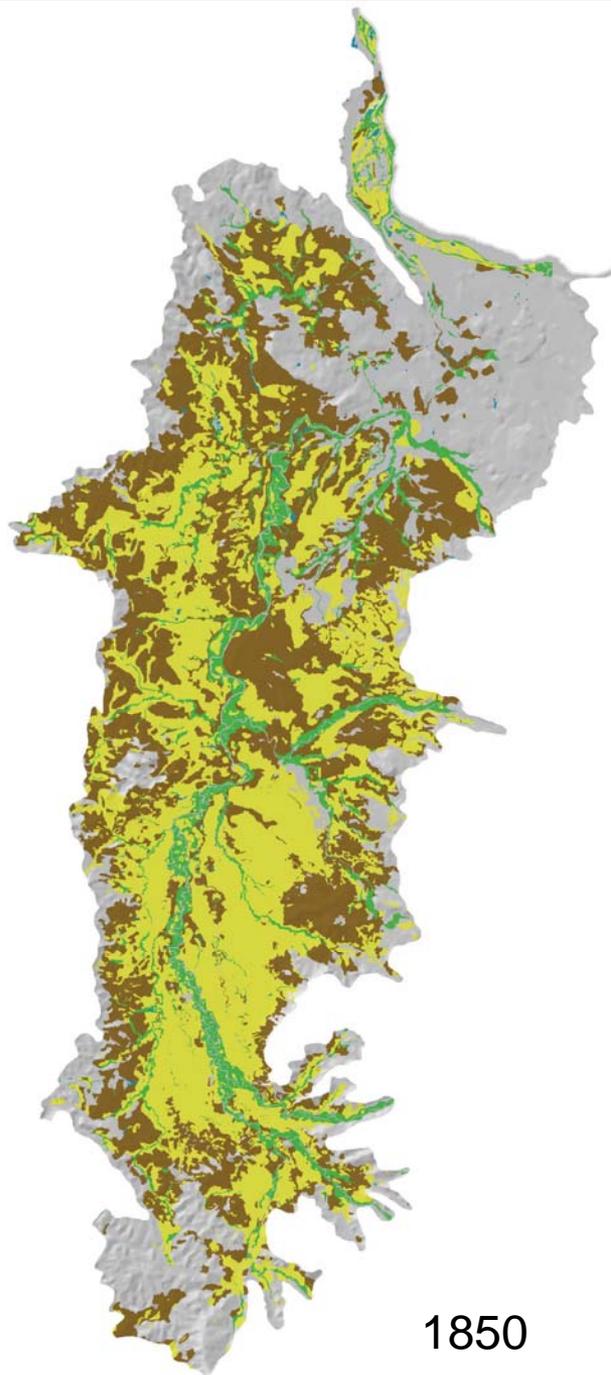
Project Challenges

- Keeping new habitat modifying weeds from getting established
- Management of species of concern
- Plant materials availability
- Working in the urban interface
- Ongoing active management requires long term stewardship

A landscape photograph showing a rolling green hillside under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a field of tall green grass is interspersed with numerous small yellow wildflowers. Several large, mature trees with dense green foliage are scattered across the hillside. The overall scene is bright and natural.

Willamette Valley Wide Acquisition of Priority Habitats

Willamette Valley Vegetation Changes

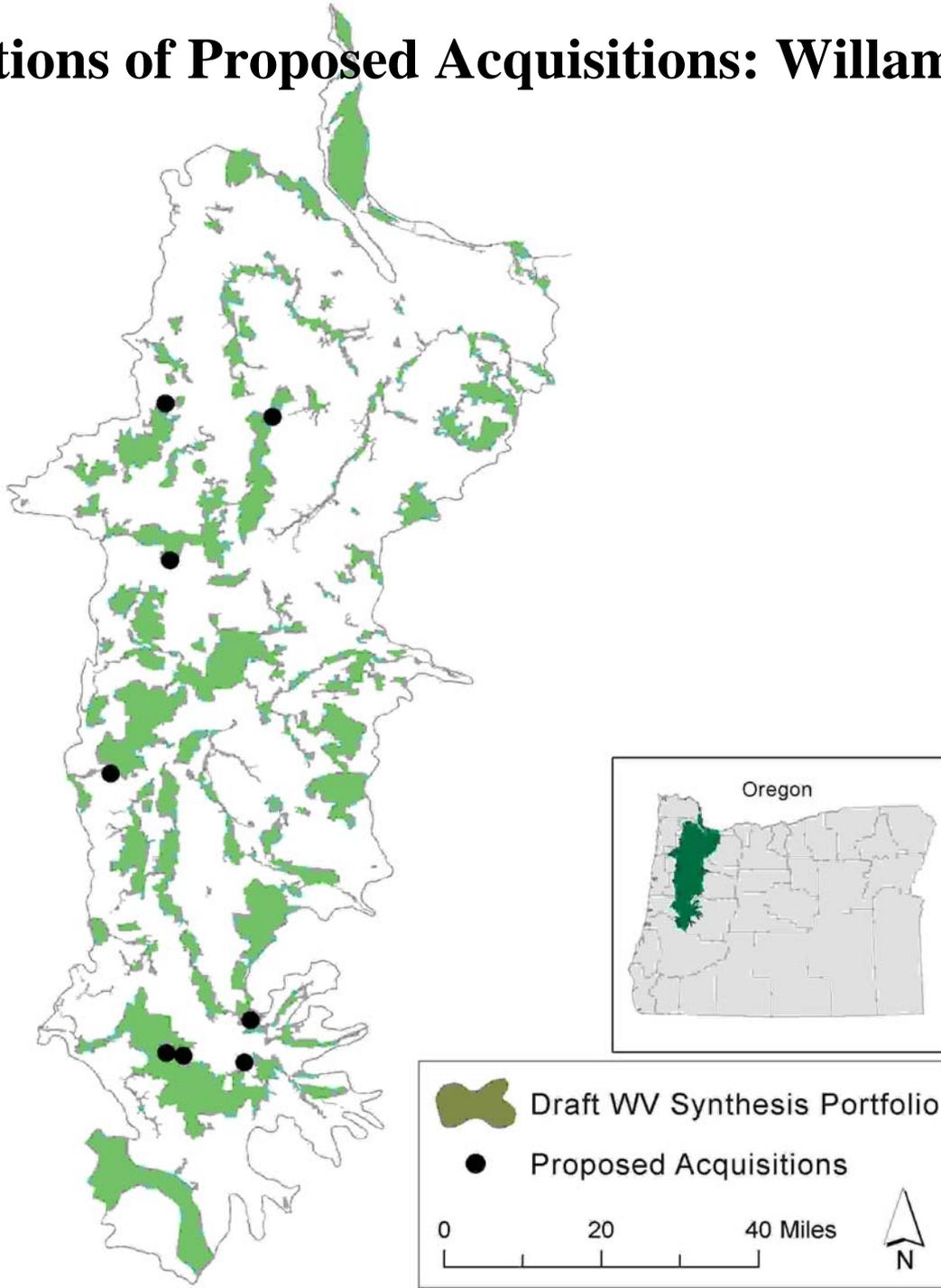


- **98+% loss of prairie**
- **92+% loss of all oak habitats**
- **~ 50% loss of channel / islands in mainstem Willamette River**

Why We Need Additional Land Acquisition and Restoration: especially for prairie and oak habitat

- 5% public ownership in Willamette Valley
- 2% managed for biodiversity conservation, mostly in 4 wildlife refuges targeting waterfowl and fish
- 1.7 million additional people by 2050
- Impending threats from fire suppression
- Provide core protected areas to support non-acquisition based initiatives

Locations of Proposed Acquisitions: Willamette Valley 2010 – 2012



All sites are in Conservation Opportunity Areas identified by Synthesis Project

Includes 5 “Key Oak Parcels” identified by Nature Conservancy analysis

Complements previous and ongoing conservation work at 5 sites and addresses 5 of 7 priorities in the subbasin plan

Anchor Fender’s blue butterfly recovery in West Eugene, Corvallis and Yamhill County

Two main-stem Willamette River sites, including important river confluences

Table 2: The Nature Conservancy acquisition targets, priority habitats and estimated costs for BPA-NWPCP renewal 2010-2012 (2018)

Parcel Name	Conservation Opportunity Area Name	Total Parcel Size	Estimated acres of habitat types			
			Prairie & Pasture	Savanna & Oak Woodland	Conifer forest	Riparian, Floodplain & Open water
Coast Fork Middle Fork Confluence	Coast Fork - Middle Fork Willamette	1272.0	140	70	450	612
Yamhill Willamette River	Yamhill Section of Mainstem	150.0	50	?	?	100
Watson	West Eugene	10.7	8.3	0	0	0
Waters	West Eugene	7.0	5	0	0	2
Amazon Basin Upland Site	West Eugene	207.0	46	91	70	0
Smith	Baskett Butte	157.0	22	90	10	has small pond
Anderson	Corvallis Area	577.5	158	255	55	45
Koelling	Yamhill Oaks	285.0	85	95	55	15
Coburg 2	Coburg Ridge	120.0	41	52	27	0
<i>Total West Eugene</i>		224.7	59.3	91	70	2
<i>Total non-West Eugene upland sites</i>		1139.5	306	492	147	60
<i>Total Upland Sites</i>		1364.2	365.3	583	217	62
<i>Total mainstem Willamette sites</i>		1422.0	190	70	450	712
TOTAL ALL SITES		2786.2	555.3	653	667	774