Threats

Remaining populations of Willamette daisy are at risk from:

- habitat loss or fragmentation
- invasion by non-native weeds
- tree and shrub encroachment
- elimination of natural disturbance

Encroachment of non-native shrubs into upland prairie habitat.

Habitat Conservation Plan

In spring of 2006, Benton County received a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). This project will allow the County to:

- increase conservation and restoration opportunities on County and other lands
- provide long-term protection of sensitive species and habitats
- develop a more economical and ecological approach to species conservation and mitigation

The HCP will cover rare and endangered prairie species including Willamette daisy and will describe activities that are likely to harm these species, the steps that will be taken to avoid, minimize and mitigate for such impacts, along with monitoring and adaptive management strategies. The public is encouraged to participate in the planning process which should be completed in 2009.

What to do if you find this species

For more information or to report Willamette daisy sightings, contact one of the following:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office
(503) 231-6179

or

Institute for Applied Ecology
563 SW Jefferson Ave.
Corvallis, Oregon 97333
(541) 753-3099

For information about the Benton County Prairie Species Habitat Conservation Plan please visit:

www.co.benton.or.us/parks/hcp

Cover photo of Willamette daisy by Lori Wisehart, all other photos by Tom Kaye.

Benton County Oregon

Benton County: At Your Service Every Day

This brochure was developed by Institute for Applied Ecology for Benton County.

Willamette Valley Prairie Species

Willamette daisy

(*Erigeron decumbens*)

Willamette daisy

Status

Willamette daisy was listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act in 2000. The species is also listed as endangered in the state of Oregon.

Willamette daisy.

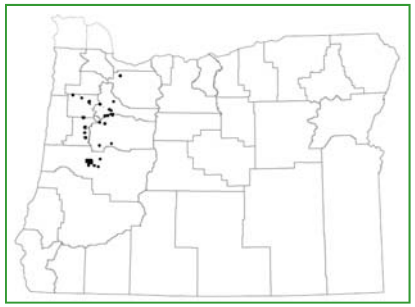
Description

Willamette daisy is a small perennial plant in the sunflower family (Asteraceae). It has small, pale blue-lavender daisy-like flowers that may fade to white late in the season. The grass-like, gray-green leaves are clustered at the plant base. Flowers appear from June to July then produce seeds in July and August. This species may also spread vegetatively over short distances. The leaves of Willamette daisy are similar to those of Hall's aster (*Aster hallii),* but Hall's aster has a reddish stem, while Willamette daisy does not. The non-native but widespread oxeye daisy has white petals and leaves with toothed edges.

Hall's aster (L) and oxeye daisy (R).

Range and Habitat

This species is currently found only in the Willamette River Basin, and is primarily known to occur in Lane County, Oregon. Willamette daisy was thought to be extinct between 1934-1980, but is now known from approximately 30 sites in Benton, Lane, Linn, Marion and Polk Counties.



Distribution of Willamette daisy.

Willamette daisy lives in both wetland prairie and upland prairie or oak savanna, preferring sites with very little shrubby cover. It often occurs with tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*), California oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*) and several species of rushes (*Juncus*).

Willamette daisy.

Prairies are open grasslands that have few, if any, trees or shrubs. Prairies in the Willamette Valley typically occur at fairly low elevations in the valley bottom or surrounding foothills. Less than 1% of Willamette Valley native prairies remain today.

Maintaining Prairie Habitat

Wildfire and human caused disturbances such as prescribed fire and mowing are needed to maintain the open structure of prairies by preventing the encroachment of trees and shrubs.

Willamette Valley upland prairie habitat and a prescribed burn for habitat restoration.

Reproduction in Small Populations

Small populations of Willamette daisy have difficulty growing in size because individual plants are incapable of pollinating themselves or close relatives and instead require pollen from other non-related plants. Studies conducted in 2005 and 2006 found that successful seed production was generally 2% or less in populations with 20 or fewer flowering plants.

Willamette daisy.