

Benton County Prairie Species Habitat Conservation Plan



January 2009

Special Issue: Draft HCP Release in January 2009

DRAFT HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN RELEASE IN JANUARY 2009

Benton County released the first public review draft of the Prairie Species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) on January 2, 2009. To obtain a copy of the draft document, you can check one out from any branch of the Benton County Public Library System, or obtain a copy from the Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Office (360 SW Avery Ave in Corvallis). The document is also available on the Benton County Prairie Species HCP website:

<http://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/hcp>

PUBLIC MEETING SERIES PLANNED FOR JANUARY 2009 TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON DRAFT PLAN

Benton County will hold public meetings in January, 2009 to present the draft HCP and solicit public comments (see box to right for times and locations). At the meetings, the County will describe the draft Plan and the mechanisms for the public to comment.

COMMENTS REQUESTED BY APRIL 2, 2009

There are several different ways to submit your input on the draft HCP:

- ◆ Attend one of the Public Meetings and give verbal or written comments
- ◆ Email your comments to hcpinfo@co.benton.or.us
- ◆ Mail written comments directly to the Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Department at:

Attn: HCP Comments
Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Dept.
360 SW Avery Avenue
Corvallis, OR 97333-1192

Following the public comment period, the draft HCP will be revised and the public will have another opportunity to review the revised draft HCP.

GOALS OF THE HCP

- ◆ Maintain viable populations of the HCP Covered Species in Benton County.
- ◆ Increase community appreciation of prairie habitats, and enhance positive community engagement in prairie conservation.
- ◆ Achieve compliance with State and Federal Endangered Species Act protections and regulations.



PEACOCK LARKSPUR
Known populations in Benton County: 18
Populations on public lands: 14

BENTON COUNTY PRAIRIE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN PUBLIC MEETING SERIES

CORVALLIS

January 27, 2009 7-9 pm
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis

WREN

January 28, 2009 7-9 pm
Wren Community Hall
35515 Kings Valley Highway, Wren

KINGS VALLEY

January 31, 2009 1-3 pm
Kings Valley Charter School
38840 Kings Valley Highway, Kings Valley

Please join us to learn about the HCP and participate the discussion. To find out more visit:

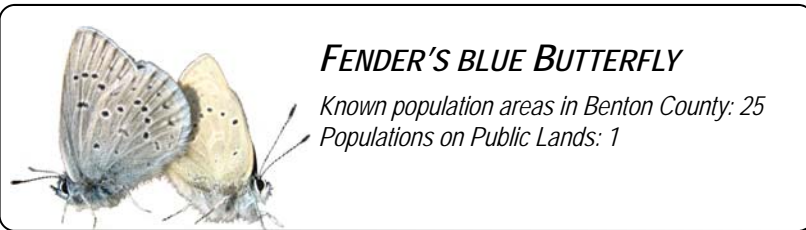
<http://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/hcp>

PLAN RATIONALE

The purpose of the Habitat Conservation Plan is to describe how the County will balance species conservation with home, farm and forest construction, public lands management and essential public services. The HCP describes how the County will avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to threatened, endangered, and critically rare prairie species in the County. By planning in advance, the County can design and modify projects (e.g., road maintenance) to avoid or minimize impacts to the species, and complete any needed mitigation in advance. The HCP establishes mechanisms for collaboration between Benton County, the Cooperators (see box), and private landowners, ensuring that any restoration of rare prairie species populations is conducted where it will contribute the most to the conservation of the species. Through the HCP, Benton County and Cooperators will develop a network of conservation sites throughout Benton County (see Conservation Area Map on back page).



TAYLOR'S CHECKERSPOT
Known populations in Benton



FENDER'S BLUE BUTTERFLY
Known population areas in Benton County: 25
Populations on Public Lands: 1

THE HCP AND PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

The majority of private landowners in Benton County will not be affected by the HCP. Landowners owning property within Fender's blue butterfly habitat and seeking a permit from Benton County (e.g., septic permit, building permit) or an agricultural building authorization may choose to participate. Fender's blue habitat has been mapped based on where the butterfly is known or likely to occur (see Map of Fender's Blue Zones). If Benton County does not complete an HCP, landowners in these areas will need to clear building projects with the US Fish and Wildlife Service before Benton County can issue permits, which can result in delays and additional costs for the landowner.

The draft HCP proposes to make the permit application process more efficient for private landowners by coordinating and completing biologically meaningful mitigation in advance. The County will acquire conservation easements over important butterfly habitat and enhance that habitat over time. The County proposes sharing the enhancement costs with landowners requesting building permits in butterfly habitat.



BRADSHAW'S LOMATIUM
Known populations in Benton
County: 3
Populations on Public Lands: 1

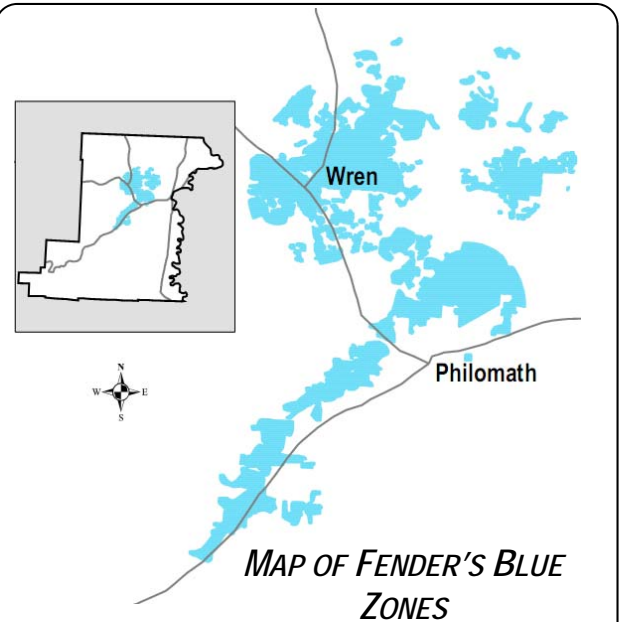
LANDS PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN THE HCP

Lands Owned By:

- ◆ Benton County
- ◆ Private lands in the Fender's Blue Zones (see map below) where Benton County issues a permit or agricultural building authorization
- ◆ Oregon State University
- ◆ Oregon Department of Transportation
- ◆ City of Corvallis
- ◆ City of Philomath
- ◆ The Nature Conservancy
- ◆ Greenbelt Land Trust
- ◆ Oregon Parks & Recreation Department
- ◆ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

PROPOSED COVERED SPECIES

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ◆ Fender's blue butterfly | ◆ Willamette daisy |
| ◆ Taylor's checkerspot butterfly | ◆ Bradshaw's lomatium |
| ◆ Kincaid's lupine | ◆ Nelson's checkermallow |
| | ◆ Peacock larkspur |



Shaded areas are Fender's blue butterfly habitat, where private landowners can work with the County to minimize and mitigate effects from home, farm and forest construction.



WILLAMETTE DAISY

*Known populations in Benton County: 3
Populations on Public lands: 1*

THE HCP AND PUBLIC LANDS

Benton County residents are fortunate to reside in an area with over a thousand acres of prairie habitat under public ownership. These lands are also essential for the survival of rare species in the County, especially rare plants, which are not protected or tracked on most private lands. Very few impacts, other than short term ones from habitat enhancement and restoration, are expected on public park, natural areas, or open space properties.



KINCAID'S LUPINE

*Known population areas in Benton County: 49
Populations on Public Lands: 19*

Benton County managed rights-of-way (ROW) are also home to populations of rare species. Many of these populations are small and fragmented (low quality), while a few are large and robust (high quality). All of the populations, however, are at risk from essential road maintenance activities, vehicle accidents, and herbicide drift from adjacent fields or mowing by well-intentioned neighbors.

The draft HCP proposes Benton County will manage for long term stability of the high quality roadside populations. A subset of the small, isolated or fragmented populations may be impacted by essential public service projects, including adding bike paths or road shoulders for cyclist and pedestrian safety. The draft Plan recognizes these planned impacts to some populations as well as the inherent vulnerability of roadside populations, and proposes the County 'duplicate' all at risk roadside populations in special conservation areas. Any planned or unplanned losses will be mitigated by these restoration actions.

PROPOSED COVERED ACTIVITIES	
Activity	Examples
Home, Farm and Forest Construction in Fender's Blue Butterfly Habitat	Residences (single family homes, manufactured homes), agricultural and accessory structures, septic tank installation, driveways
Parks/Natural Areas/Open Space Management	Habitat restoration, enhancement and management
Transportation & Work in Rights-of-Way	Paved road shoulders, gravel to pavement conversion, intersection improvement, Utility maintenance, most road approaches, etc.
Water, Wastewater and Flood Control	Inspection, cleaning, rehabilitation, repair, and/or replacement of pipelines, pumping stations
Conservation Measures & Implementation Activities	Surveys, monitoring, habitat enhancement and restoration, etc
Emergency Activities	Firefighting, hazardous materials clean up, traffic accident clean-up
Benton County Permits and Agricultural Building Authorizations	Issuance of Permits: Building, Accessory, Agricultural Building, Utility, Addition, New manufactured dwellings, etc.
Public Service Facilities Construction	Construction of schools, fire stations

POTENTIAL COOPERATORS	
◆ Oregon State University	◆ City of Philomath
◆ Oregon Department of Transportation	◆ The Nature Conservancy
◆ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	◆ Greenbelt Land Trust
◆ City of Corvallis	◆ Oregon Parks & Recreation Department



NELSON'S CHECKERMALLOW

*Known population areas in Benton County: 34
Populations on Public Lands: 29*

**Join us for one of the
upcoming Benton County
HCP Public Meetings!**

- ♦ Corvallis Public Library:
January 27, 7-9pm
- ♦ Wren Community Hall:
January 28, 7-9pm
- ♦ Kings Valley Charter School:
January 31, 1-3pm

CONSERVATION AREAS IN BENTON COUNTY

These conservation areas are owned by or under conservation easement to Benton County or the proposed Cooperators of the HCP. With the cooperation fostered through the Habitat Conservation Plan, these conservation lands, along with any newly protected lands, will form a network of conserved prairie habitat in Benton County.

