

Benton County Prairie Species Habitat Conservation Plan Prairie Conservation Strategy Public Worksession

May 28, 2009, 7-9 pm, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Meeting Attendees:

Rana Foster
Don Emenegger
Bill Percy
Adam Novick
Karen Fleck Harding
Steve Northway
Jim Fairchild
Molly Monroe

Jarod Jebousek
Susie Dunham
Jerry Chiappisi
Bennett Hall
Rachel Schwindt
Carolyn Menke
Tom Kaye
Jeff Powers

Meeting discussion: The meeting attendees assembled into three groups based on seating arrangement in the meeting room and each group discussed solutions to the two meeting topics.

Solution Group Discussion Topic 1: How to enable citizens to do conservation on private lands

Input from Group 1:

1. Clarify limitations and regulations on [providing] seeds of listed species to landowners
2. Provide information on species habitat requirements for seeds of listed species along with seed packets
3. Safe Harbor Agreements- educate landowners; get clarification from US Fish and Wildlife Service on the exact protocol for entering into a safe harbor agreement
4. For a Safe Harbor Agreement is there flexibility of rules? What are criteria? Is there some document or written guide available to landowners (More safety for species)
5. Safer Safe Harbor Agreements [for landowners]
6. Less regulations for endangered species conservation - avoid regulatory consequences
7. Assistance, as cost sharing, seed sharing, information/resource sharing
8. Clarify habitat size requirements on private land for recovery
9. Create or identify tax incentive programs for conservation besides WHCMP (Wildlife Habitat Conservation Management Program)

Input from Group 2:

1. Increase tax deferral for conservation
2. Evaluate existing or recent programs that may be counterproductive to conservation (e.g., reforestation incentive)
3. Education and publicity/recognition for restoration and conservation work
4. Education about threat from Douglas-fir, and free or cooperative labor for fir removal

5. Funding for invasive species control

Input from Group 3:

1. Use existing programs
2. Divert any available funds to recovery; divert funds from planning and mitigation.
3. Offer tax deferrals
4. Tax elimination for lands in conservation.

Solution Group Discussion Topic 2: How to improve conservation on public lands

Input from Group 2:

1. Consider water availability when prioritizing lands for conservation
2. Control spread of invasives from public lands, need to draw line, and prioritize, especially for species such as false brome, Scotch broom, bullfrogs
3. Regulate pesticide/herbicide use in public forest (where overspray may affect prairies and meadows)

Input from Group 3:

1. Suspension of roadside management of rare species populations has further harmed populations
2. Control of poison oak along roadsides is detrimental to rare and prairie species
3. Populations on rights of way have lower rates of seed predation