



CARDWELL HILL REGIONAL CONSERVATION PLANNING STRATEGY

DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

May 19, 2006

Oregon Solutions Project Convener:

Annabelle Jaramillo, Benton County Commissioner

Project Sponsors:

Benton County and Marys River Watershed Council

Oregon Solutions Project Manager:

Josh Cerra, David Evans and Associates, Inc.

David Evans and Associates, Inc. has donated in-kind project management support for this project.

PURPOSE:

This project will the framework for development of a successful model for collaborative, ecologically driven, community based restoration activities across private and public properties in the Cardwell Hill area of Benton County. Partners in this effort will:

- contribute to an inventory of existing assessments;
- contribute toward the development and implementation of landowner management plans in the Cardwell Hill area; and
- create a clearinghouse for available resources from public, private, and nonprofit organizations.

This project will be result in a replicable model of voluntary land stewardship and public engagement with a regional benefit.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Cardwell Hill Regional Conservation Planning Strategy (the Project) is a cooperative, voluntary approach to landscape-scale restoration and management that works across the ownership boundaries of many participating landowners. It takes place in the upper Marys River Watershed an area composed of a network of public and privately-owned parcels in an area of high biodiversity value. The Project is an effort spurred by a set of common goals generated by landowners and the Watershed Council, in the interests of protecting and restoring habitat and water resources in the region.

This project will be the first of its kind to attempt to incorporate voluntary protection for rare, threatened or endangered species while respecting landowner decisions regarding use of their land. The Cardwell Hill area is composed of rare oak woodland, oak savanna, riparian, and wetland habitats. These habitats, which have undergone dramatic decline in the Willamette Valley Ecoregion, harbor many of the Focal Species identified in the Oregon Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy (OCWS). The project area is in one of the Conservation Opportunity Areas identified in the OCWS. Additionally, much of this area has been identified as proposed critical habitat for several endangered species. Voluntary conservation of these species, and the Opportunity Areas within which they reside, is a key implementation strategy for the OCWS.

Developed by the Marys River Watershed Council, the Project will bring the Council and Benton County together with private and public landowners on a coordinated, landscape-scale conservation plan. This will be achieved by using state-of-the-art landscape analysis and community planning techniques that balance conservation of habitat with preservation of landowner lifestyles and values. It will further develop the concept of a “Livable County” by providing environmental protection, economic development, and community services for its citizens. The Project will serve as a replicable model for identifying areas of high biodiversity value throughout the County where private landowners can work voluntarily to preserve and enhance these features, without prescriptive measures by regulatory authorities. The lasting benefits of education and outreach about voluntary conservation management plans will provide momentum for future community efforts.

The Marys River Watershed Council has funding support from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to develop the first phase of restoration projects in the upper Marys River watershed with eight participating landowners, collectively owning up to one square mile of land base. The Governor’s designation of the Project as an Oregon Solutions project attracts additional collaboration and resources as well as enables broader community outreach and support. The Project includes outreach to the Wren Community to ensure that the Wren Community Plan and its members adequately inform and participate in this effort. As a growing strategic partnership, the Project will become the nucleus for future phases of the Project in adjacent properties, and sets up a voluntary trajectory for additional stewardship of important habitats and neighborhoods in Benton County, and beyond.

BACKGROUND:

Governor Kulongoski designated this project as an Oregon Solutions project in April 2005 because the project supports Oregon’s Sustainability Objectives and will benefit from the Oregon Solutions Community Governance System. The mission of Oregon Solutions is to develop sustainable solutions to community-based problems that support economic, environmental, and community objectives and that are built through the collaborative efforts of businesses, governments, and non-profit organizations. This project has potential to serve as a model for public engagement and voluntary land management in other areas of the state. The Governor believes that encouraging stewardship through local efforts helps to build a healthy community while providing environmental benefits.

Oregon Solutions Cardwell Hill Team

Benton County
Benton Soil and Water Conservation District
David Evans and Associates, Inc.
Defenders of Wildlife
Greenbelt Land Trust
Marys River Watershed Council
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon State Governor's office
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
The Nature Conservancy
The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
United States Bureau of Land Management
United States Forest Service
 -Siuslaw National Forest
 -Finley NWR
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Wren Community Club

Commitments for the Cardwell Hill Regional Conservation Planning Strategy

These commitments represent a public statement of intent to participate in the project, to strive to identify opportunities and solutions whenever possible, to contribute assistance and support within resource limits, and to collaborate with other Team members in promoting the success of the project.

Benton County

Benton County will:

- provide leadership in a county-wide systems approach to protect the endangered, threatened, and rare species listed in the recently approved Habitat Conservation Plan Grant;
- collaborate with the Cardwell Hill Project as one model for the Habitat Conservation Planning effort and partner with the Marys River Watershed Council to develop a seamless approach to voluntary, private landowner conservation efforts consistent with the goals of both Benton County and the Marys River Watershed Council;
- continue to investigate the feasibility of acquiring land easements or fee simple land acquisition as a management tool for species protection; and
- provide technical expertise from the many stewardship management plans for lands managed by the Natural Areas and Parks Department and share its established, collaborative landowner relationships to assist resource protection and restoration to support the goals of the Cardwell Hill Project.



Jay Dixon
Chair



Linda Modell
Commissioner



Annabelle Jaramillo
Commissioner

Marys River Watershed Council

Marys River Watershed Council will:

- continue to serve as the central contact point for participating landowners, and facilitate the relationships between all partners;
- engage more community members in the effort;
- develop restoration projects with landowners, and work with partners toward identifying appropriate funding sources;
- duplicate this approach in other Marys River subbasins, as well as share this approach with other watershed councils;
- keep all landowners, partners, and watershed councils informed about ongoing developments with regard to the Oregon Solutions process;

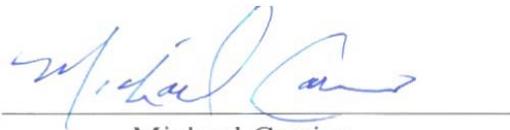
- develop joint projects with the Luckiamute watershed council where interests overlap (e.g. seek projects with); and
- develop a mechanism for establishing and maintaining communication lines between watershed council and Oregon Solutions partners to ensure that all parties are aware of efforts each are doing toward this particular project.



Sandra Coveny
Coordinator, Marys River Watershed Council

Governor’s Office and the Economic Revitalization Team

The Cardwell Hill Regional Conservation Planning Strategy is an excellent example of a solution that simultaneously addresses economic, environmental, and community well-being. The Governor's Office created the Oregon Solutions approach to help address complex issues with sustainable solutions. To this end, Governor Kulongoski's Office will continue to support the project in concept and is interested in developing and assisting with needed administrative policy.

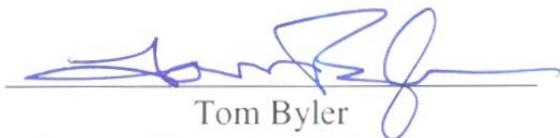


Michael Carrier
Governor's Office, Director of Natural Resource Policy

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) provides watershed improvement grants, technical guidance and training to groups working statewide to improve watershed health, and to support restoration efforts by landowner and citizens. Their long-term strategy is to achieve sustainable watershed health throughout Oregon. OWEB has a key role in the Cardwell Hill project, as they are able to provide advice and guidance on restoration proposals that affect the Marys River Watershed. Douglass W. Fitting serves on the Oregon Solutions project team. OWEB will:

- entertain grant applications from the Marys River Watershed Council and property owners on restoration projects that may be proposed. Such assistance may include helping the Benton County and the Marys River Watershed Council as they make application for OWEB funding for technical assistance and implementation that may become part of the project; and
- entertain grant applications that support the necessary outreach efforts (including staff) integral to this effort.



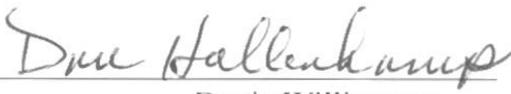
Tom Byler
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

US Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The United State Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recognizes this project as a good example of the Department of Interior's 4-Cs (communication, consultation and cooperation, all in the service of conservation) focus. BLM recognizes that the outcome of this project should become a model for future collaborative efforts.

In support of this project, BLM will:

- maintain a future interest in collaboration with the Oregon Solutions team in areas where the Oregon Solutions project strategy may be used elsewhere within Benton County, where it affects or benefits BLM system lands as it pertains to the Salem District program of work; and;
- maintain an interest in working with local entities on projects that involve the Oregon Solutions project strategy, where it affects or benefits BLM system lands as it pertains to the Salem District program of work.;
- make our BLM corporate GIS data for the area available for the project as needed.

for 
Denis Williamson
Bureau of Land Management - Salem District Manager

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

ODFW recognizes the potential of the Cardwell Hills project to advance goals contained in the Oregon Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Therefore, in support of this project, ODFW will:

- consider providing matching funds to the Project through the BPA Wildlife Mitigation program consistent with agency and program goals; and
- encourage the submittal of grant proposals to the Department's Landowner Incentive Program for the implementation of habitat restoration actions; and
- encourage participation in the Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program by providing technical assistance for development of plans that will benefit native wildlife species and their habitats.

for 
Roy Elicker
Interim Director

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is a strong believer in collaborative, science based planning and conservation. The Nature Conservancy also recognizes that the best conservation work meets the needs of both people and nature. We applaud landowners who take voluntary action to provide

benefits to the fish and wildlife habitat and water quality that helps make Oregon a great place to live. Toward that end we will:

- Provide technical assistance as time and resources allow, including: habitat assessment, providing regional ecological context and developing restoration strategies
- Assist as possible with conservation agreements between landowners and agencies, the government or non-profit organizations
- Integrate management of our land in the area to the planning process to the maximum extent possible.
- Offer education support through tours at Nature Conservancy sites where oak restoration is occurring
- Help identify sources of funding or other support for projects.


Jonathan Soll
Willamette Valley Basin director


Greg Fitzpatrick
Willamette Valley Stewardship Ecologist

US Fish and Wildlife Service

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will coordinate directly with the Watershed Council to promote results that are consistent with the goals of the Council, USFWS and Benton County. USFWS will:

- work closely with the Council when conducting outreach with landowners;
- share updated spatial data for effective development of the Project;
- continue to work with the Watershed Council, landowners and Project partners to understand regulatory environment including agreements that provide regulatory assurances;
- coordinate with the council to conduct listed and sensitive plant and animal surveys on participating properties of landowners who have agreed to have federally-conducted surveys on their properties;
- will inform Watershed Council, landowners and Project partners about USFWS grant opportunities and provide technical assistance with the application process;
- will provide survey protocol guidance and Federal Enhancement of Survival Permits to qualified non-federal biologists/technical specialists, to ensure that surveys are consistent and compatible with species data types collected by the agency; and
- USFWS will work with the Council to improve the quality and consistency of land management plans and their implementation.


Kemper McMaster
State Supervisor

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work to improve existing collaborative efforts between landowners and NRCS. To this end, NRCS will:

- work directly with the Council to assist the Council in informing landowners of the types of landowner assistance programs provide by the agency;
- consider Cardwell Hills-type projects during the funding process, if the proposed projects are consistent with Agency and program goals;
- work with the council to provide technical assistance (e.g. workshops, etc) when requested to help with implement the model;
- help identify potential USDA NRCS grant opportunities to support the work of the project; and
- provide technical consultation to the grant writing group on an as-needed basis



Gary Briggs

Upper Willamette Basin Team Leader

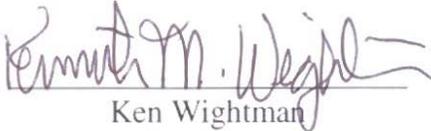
David Evans and Associates, Inc.

DEA Inc. understands the value of working for and collaborating with project partners in promoting our firm’s core purpose, “To improve the quality of life while demonstrating stewardship of the built and natural environments.” In support of this effort, DEA Inc. will:

- provide Oregon Solutions project manager support to ensure successful development of a Declaration of Cooperation, and participate in drafting the implementation plan;
- establish and maintain a website on-line forum to facilitate development of this project;
- continue to seek funding and support grant applications for this project; and
- team with partners to deliver support for this project.



Kevin O'Hara
Senior Associate



Ken Wightman
President

Benton Soil & Water Conservation District

Benton SWCD will:

- provide technical assistance where needed, to landowners interested in developing projects and management plans on their property;
- offer outreach and education support;

- help identify sources of funding for projects, assist landowners with OWEB small grants as necessary; and
- provide additional technical assistance to landowners where needed.

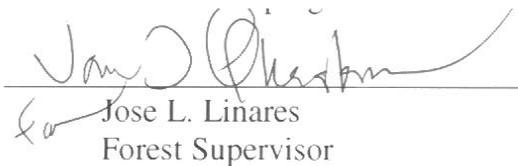


Gordon Cumming
District Manager

US Forest Service

USFS will:

- invite MRWC to participate as an interested party in the collaborative process when the proposed Marys Peak Stewardship Area is formulated.
- maintain a future interest in collaboration with the Oregon Solutions team in areas where the Oregon Solutions project strategy may be used elsewhere within Benton County where it affects or benefits national forest system lands and as it pertains to Siuslaw National Forest program of work; and
- maintain an interest in working with local entities on projects that involve the Oregon Solutions project strategy where it affects or benefits national forest system lands as it pertains to Siuslaw National Forest program of work.

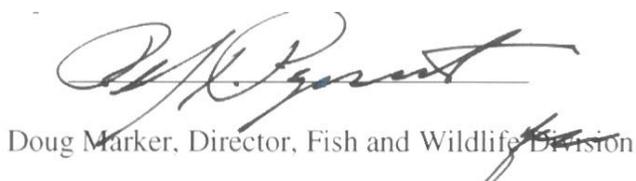


Jose L. Linares
Forest Supervisor

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

NPCC will:

- wherever consistent with their project implementation goals, assist the Council in identifying funding resources that contribute planning, management, and implementation dollars for restoration projects;
- consistent with its statutory and other legal authorities consider recommending funding for project applications/requests that generate voluntary conservation easements/acquisition on private lands, where consistent with their subbasin plan directives.

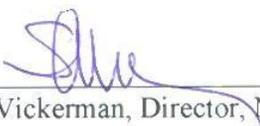


Doug Marker, Director, Fish and Wildlife Division

Defenders of Wildlife

Defenders of Wildlife works collaboratively with diverse partners to support biodiversity conservation in Oregon, with a focus on voluntary conservation on private lands. Defenders supports and encourages conservation efforts at the landscape scale that protect and restore at-risk habitats and species. Defenders is enthusiastic to support this project and will:

- provide information on incentive programs and other voluntary conservation tools in Oregon;
- promote and support implementation of the Oregon Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy;
- serve as a link to the activities of the Willamette Partnership, including the Ecosystem Marketplace;
- solicit financial and political support for this innovative approach.


Sara Vickerman, Director, Northwest Office

Greenbelt Land Trust

Greenbelt Land Trust (GLT) is considering this area in its Open Space Plan update process. To this end, the Greenbelt Land Trust will:

- collaborate with other partners to conduct general landowner workshops, as and when appropriate, about conservation easements;
- consult with qualifying landowners pursuing easements;
- collaborate in helping to identify and secure funds for easement purchase and management; and
- consider holding conservation easements on properties that meet GLT criteria.


Betty Griffiths
Board Chairman

Oregon Department of Forestry- West Oregon District

- Assist with providing resources and technical expertise where appropriate
- Assist with implementation of forestry-related cost-share programs in partnership with participating agencies'
- Provide technical expertise and regulatory oversight for fuels management, slash disposal, and burning where appropriate

- Cooperate with data sharing (GIS information) as needed

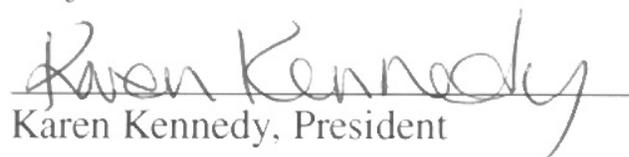


Steve Laam, District Forester

The Wren Community Club

The Wren Community Club is a non-profit organization that fosters cooperation and involvement within the Wren community. We support maintenance and enhancement of the diverse landscape around Wren, including the Marys River, its watershed and upland habitats, the sustainability of natural resources, and the rural, country atmosphere of the area. In support of this project, WCC will

- make the Wren Community Hall available for meetings of the landowners and the Oregon Solutions team, and
- provide space in the *Wrenditions* newsletter for community updates on the Cardwell Hills Project.



Karen Kennedy, President

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

The Xerces Society has conducted searches and site monitoring for the endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterfly in Benton County. The Society also has worked with Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Department staff to develop a site management plan for the Taylor's checkerspot at two sites: the Beazell Memorial Forest and on private property adjacent to the Fitton Green Natural Area. In addition, Xerces Society staff helped in the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding with the private property owner.

The Xerces Society has also worked with the Bonneville Power Administration to manage Taylor's checkerspot habitat on powerline easements leased by BPA along the Santiam-Toledo Transmission Line Corridor. The Xerces Society has developed, and BPA is implementing, appropriate management activities to protect the butterfly and its habitat along this corridor. In support of this project, the Xerces Society will, to the extent resources are available:

- Lend expertise on developing additional plans or agreements to manage property for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly;

- Promote this butterfly as an important resource to the public.
- Provide information on the conservation of native pollinator insects in agricultural landscapes and management expertise for the conservation of endangered invertebrates



Scott Hoffman Black, Executive Director

Attachment A: Ground Rules

The partners in the Oregon Solutions process are committed to the following “ground rules” for how they conduct their business with one another in this collaborative process. These ground rules will guide the process of achieving an integrated solution and the creation of a Declaration of Cooperation. The Oregon Solutions team adopted the ground rules at the first meeting on DATE.

- Non-competitive spirit – it is the landscape that wins.
- Work to deliver a clear, consistent Project message for landowners and participants alike.
- Share information.
- Use people’s time with respect.
- Commitment to Oregon Solutions process and roles.
- Ensure that people are able to participate and are heard.
- Acknowledge this is a forward-thinking effort with a focus on making positive change.
- Work towards success.
- Capture the spirit of working together for positive change.
- Respect rights of landowners during process.
- One of the rights of landowners is privacy.
- Community ownership of the project.
- Voluntary, not regulatory.
- Nurture open communication between agencies/landowners, agencies/watershed council, and watershed council/landowners.

**Attachment B:
Contact Information**

Oregon Solutions Cardwell Hill Team

Benton County Commission	Annabelle	Jaramillo	541-766-6800	Annabelle.e.jaramillo@co.benton.or.us
Benton County Natural Areas and Parks	Jerry	Davis	541-766-6871 541-766-6026	jerry.davis@co.benton.or.us
Benton SWCD	Donna	Schmitz	541-753-7208	donna.schmitz@oacd.org
Butterfly Specialist	David	McCorkle		mcorcle@wou.edu
Butterfly Specialist	Dana	Ross	541-758-3006	moreyross@comcast.net
David Evans and Associates, Inc.	Josh F.	Cerra	503-499-0375 541-517-4500	Jfc@deainc.com
David Evans and Associates, Inc.	Kevin	O'Hara	503-223-6663	kro@deainc.com
Defenders of Wildlife	Cheryl	Hummon	503-697-3222	chummon@defenders.org
Greenbelt Trust	Claire	Fiegenger		claire@greenbeltlandtrust.org
Greenbelt Trust	Karlene	McCabe	541-752-9609	karlene@greenbeltlandtrust.org
Marys River Watershed Council	Sandra	Coveny	541-758-7597	coordinator@mrwc.net
Marys River Watershed Council	Karen Fleck	Harding	541-929-6398	outreach@mrwc.net
Marys River Watershed Council	Stacey	Carpenter	541-766-8706	Stacycarpenter867@hotmail.com
Marys River Watershed Council	Bill	Pearcy	541-737-2601	wgpearcy@coas.oregonstate.edu
Northwest Power and Conservation Council	Peter	Paquet	503-222-5161	ppaquet@nwcouncil.org
NRCS	Scott	Wright	541-967-5927	scott.wright@or.usda.gov
ODFW	Ann	Kreager	541-757-4186	ann.kreager@state.or.us
ODFW-BPA Mitigation	Michael	Pope	503-947-6070	michael.d.pope@state.or.us
Oregon Department of Forestry	Mike	Totey	929-9751	mtotey@odf.state.or.us
Oregon Governor's office	Mike	Carrier	(503) 986-6525	michael.carrier@state.or.us
Oregon Solutions	Pete	Dalke	503-229-5588	petedalke@orsolutions.org
Oregon Solutions	Kim	Travis	503-725-9092	ktravis@pdx.edu
OSU Department of Zoology	Frank	Moore		Frank.moore@oregonstate.edu
OWEB	Ken	Bierly	503-986-0178	
OWEB	Douglas	Fitting		douglas.fitting@state.or.us
Siuslaw National Forest	Jose	Linares	541-750-700	jlinares@fs.fed.us
Suislaw National Forest	Joni	Quarnstrom	541-750-7075	jquarnstrom@fs.fed.us
Suislaw National Forest	Kathy	Fletcher	541-750-7003	kfletcher@fs.fed.us
USFS-Siuslaw National Forest	Karen	Bennett		

The Nature Conservancy	Greg	Fitzpatrick	747-0070	gfitzpatrick@tnc.org
United States Bureau of Land Management	Denis	Williamson	503-375-5643	Denis_willamson@blm.gov
USFWS	Mikki	Collins	503-231-6179	Mikki_Collins@fws.gov
USFWS Finley NWR	Steve	Smith	541-757-7236	Steve_smith@fws.gov
Willamette Partnership	David	Primozych	503 434-8033	primozych@verizon.net
Wren Community Club	Karen	Kennedy	541-929-5711	
Xerces Society	Mace	Vaughn	503-232-6639	mace@xerces.org
Landowner	Meredith	Howell		twine@peak.org
Landowner/OSU Department of Philosophy	Kathleen Dean	Moore	541-737-5652	kmoore@oregonstate.edu

Website address: www.deainc.com/oscardwell/



Placeholder: Project area map

Placeholder: Project implementation Plan