

Vernal Pool Information Network
April 6, 2016
Presentation by Niall McCarten and Sarah Red-Laird and Visit to ODOT Bank
Summary

Attendees: Jim Thraikill, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Craig Tuss, Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG); Karen Hussey and Kristi Mergenthaler, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC); Keith Perchemlides, Lyndsey Lascheck and Molly Morrison, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Paul Benton, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT); David Monnin, consultant; Jason Clinch, consultant; Cam Paterson, consultant, Abby Nichols, Oregon State University (OSU), Sarah Red-Laird (Bee Girl); Niall McCarten (UC Davis).



Photo: View of restored vernal pools. ODOT Conservation Bank, Newland Road, Medford.

On April 6, 2016, the Vernal Pool Information Network (VPIN) convened at the ODOT office near Medford, to hear two presentations: 1) using hydrology to inform vernal pool restoration and 2) the ODOT bee/pollinator study; and, visit the ODOT vernal pool conservation bank area north of Medford, Oregon.

Presenter's (links to the 2 powerpoint presentations are below)

Niall McCarten

Niall McCarten was part of a team involved with the vernal pool assessment conducted by ESA in 2005. He recently finished his PhD in Vernal Pool Ecohydrology at UC Davis. Over the past 10 years Niall has designed and implemented vernal pool restoration and creation, using hydrology, soils and vegetation patterns to inform creation of the pools. Much of Niall's work has been with the Department of Defense at Beale, Travis and Riverside Air Force bases in California. Niall is hoping to form a partnership with TNC in the Rogue Basin and collect similar vernal pool hydrologic and vegetation data.

Sarah Red-Laird

Sarah Red-Laird is the founder and Executive Director of the Bee Girl organization, a nonprofit with a mission to inspire and empower communities to conserve bees and their habitat. She is a graduate of the University of Montana's College of Forestry and Conservation with a degree in Resource Conservation, focused on community collaboration and environmental policy. Sarah is the US Ambassador of the International Bee Research Association's (IBRA) BEEWORLD project, the Kids and Bees Director for the American Beekeeping Federation, a New York Bee Sanctuary Advisory Board member, is an active member of the Northwest Farmers Union, the Western Apicultural Society's Oregon Director, and the Regional Representative for the Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association.

Link to the powerpoint presentations: [Vernal Pool Ecohydrology](#), [Pollinator Presentation](#)



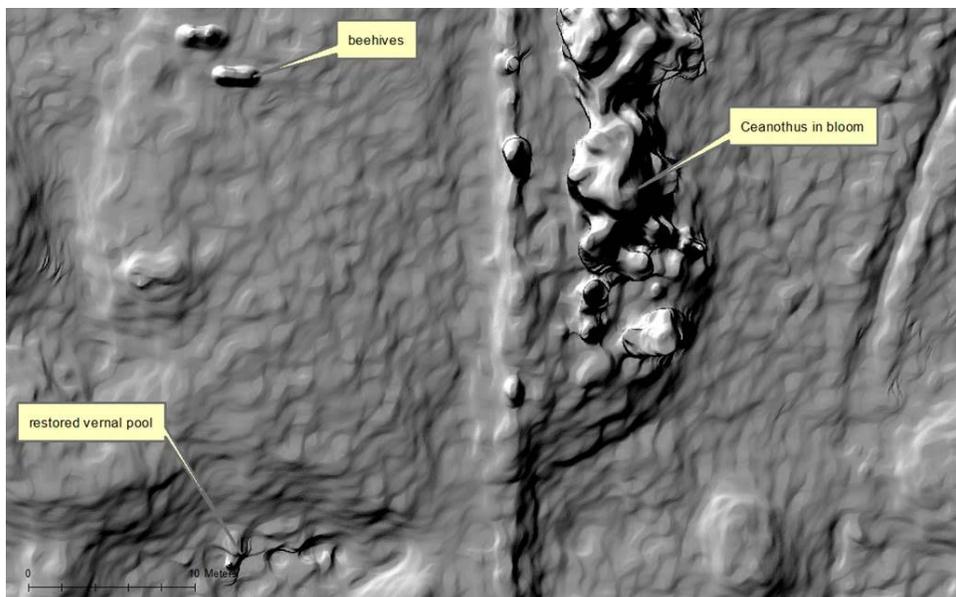
Summary of visit to ODOT bank area:

- Prescribed burned in the late spring of 2015.
- Re-contoured using aerial photos from 1930's
- Seeded with native plants from the J. Herbert Stone Nursery (see VPINMarch 2015 notes).
- ODOT is funding the bee project at the ODOT bank.
 - Deliverables include outreach to the public regarding pollinators.
 - Project is examining native versus nonnative bee interaction.
 - 5 honey bee boxes are deployed.



- ODOT has contracted with a drone operator to obtain aerial images of the restored area (see images below).
- ODOT and its contractors will be monitoring the area through 2017.





- Use this link (control+click) to see [panoramic images of the ODOT site](#). Please contact Cam Paterson (cam.patterson@cascadegeospatial.com) for more information.