

Appendix H. Public Presentations about the HCP

1.1 Introduction

For a successful plan, Benton County has sought to inform the public about the HCP through workshops and presentations:

1.2 Workshops

Prairie Plant Workshop, Cardwell Hill, June 12, 2006: A Prairie Plant Identification workshop was held cooperatively by Mary's River Watershed Council and Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) on June 12, 2006. Carolyn Menke from IAE led this workshop. Approximately 20 landowners from the Cardwell Hills area attended. Al Kitzman, Parks Superintendent from Benton County Natural Areas and Parks, represented the County. Many of the landowners attending already had their property surveyed by IAE staff. The workshop took place on a private landowner's property in Cardwell Hill. This landowner has a high quality population of Kincaid's lupine and Fender's Blue Butterfly. Attendees were provided with a list of species found by IAE in the Cardwell Hill area. The workshop began with Carolyn providing an overview of the HCP process. The group then walked the property and Carolyn identified native and exotic plants for the group, and discussed the importance of native plant species in prairie plant communities. Several very problematic weedy exotic plant species common in the area were identified and the group discussed what conditions may have facilitated the spread of these species into certain areas of the property. The group concluded the workshop with a discussion of rare species and prairie management options.

Prairie Restoration Workshop, Cardwell Hill, September 23, 2006: This workshop was held collaboratively by Mary's River Watershed Council (MRWC) and Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) on Saturday, September 23, 2006 at the MRWC's outreach coordinator's property in Cardwell Hill. Workshop presenters included Steve Smith (USFWS), private lands biologist from the USFWS Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Lynda Boyer, Botanist and Restoration Ecologist from Heritage Seedlings in Salem, and Carolyn Menke from IAE. The workshop was attended by approximately 25 people from Cardwell Hill, Corvallis, King's Valley and other local areas in the Willamette Valley. Al Kitzman, Parks Superintendent from Benton County Natural Areas and Parks, represented the County. Topics discussed included prairie restoration and management, exotic species control, and rare species management options. Specific attention was directed to control options for false-brome, an extremely problematic

invasive exotic grass in the area. Rich Owen from RJ Consulting, Inc., gave a demonstration of exotic shrub (hawthorn and Armenian blackberry) removal with skid-steer machinery. Participants received packets of information about prairie restoration, weed management, native seed sources, and local contractors engaging in restoration work in their area.

Public Worksession for the Benton County Prairie Conservation Strategy, May 28, 2009: HCP staff presented information about the developing prairie conservation strategy, including an overview of aerial photos from the strategy area. Attendees broke into small solution groups to brainstorm on two topics: (1) How to enable citizens to do conservation on private lands, and (2) how to improve conservation on private lands. Each solution group then presented their discussion outline to the entire group.

1.3 Presentations to Interest Groups/ Workshops/ Conferences

April 13, 2006: HCP Planning Team Members gave a presentation at the Oregon Solutions Regional Conservation Strategy Project meeting about the HCP process and goals.

June 6, 2006: HCP Planning Team members gave a presentation to the Luckiamute Watershed Council about the HCP process, goals and rationale, species to be covered, and estimated time frame for completion of the HCP.

December 13, 2006: HCP Planning Team members gave a presentation to the Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Advisory Board about the HCP process, goals and rationale, species to be covered, and estimated time frame for completion of the HCP.

December 19, 2006: HCP Planning Team members gave a presentation to the Greenbelt Land Trust Board of Directors regarding the HCP process, goals and rationale, species to be covered, and estimated time frame for completing the HCP.

January 30, 2007: HCP Planning Team members gave a presentation to the Long Tom Watershed Council regarding the HCP process, goals and rationale, species to be covered, and upcoming field work for the HCP and associated projects.

March 7, 2007: HCP Planning Team members gave a presentation to the Mary's River Watershed Council regarding the HCP process, goals and rationale, species to be covered, and upcoming field work for the HCP and associated projects.

April 4, 2007: HCP Planning Team members attended the Mary's River Watershed Council Meeting. This meeting focused on conservation projects taking place in the Muddy Creek portion of the Mary's River Watershed. Projects highlighted included the Benton County HCP and projects by Mary's River Watershed Council, Greenberry

Irrigation District, Cascade Pacific RC&D, Benton Soil and Water Conservation District. Carolyn Menke (IAE) gave a brief summary of the HCP project, describing the covered species, the progress to date, and plans for the upcoming field season.

August 15, 2007: HCP Planning Team member, Carolyn Menke, was an invited guest lecturer at the University of Oregon for a seminar on Conservation Planning. The purpose of the class was to explore real-world planning initiatives for conserving native plants and wildlife habitats in Oregon. Carolyn discussed the components of the HCP process, targets and goals, and challenges of conservation tools. A follow-up field trip was held on August 19, 2007 at Jackson Frazier Wetland and Lupine Meadows, where Carolyn Menke discussed habitat management, Benton County conservation goals, prairie ecology, and conservation strategies.

September 29, 2007: HCP Planning Team member, Carolyn Menke, participated in a Streaked Horned Lark Workshop sponsored by The Nature Conservancy. Carolyn discussed the goals of the Benton County HCP, the status of the project, and how the Streaked Horned Lark fits into conservation in Benton County.

January 7-8, 2008: HCP Planning Team member, Lori Wisheart, participated in a Taylor's checkerspot Workshop sponsored by The Nature Conservancy. Lori discussed the goals of the Benton County HCP, the status of the project, and how the HCP hopes to benefit Taylor's checkerspot in Benton County.

April 18, 2008: HCP Planning Team member, Lori Wisheart, participated in a Oregon Oak Working Group meeting in Eugene. Lori discussed the goals of the Benton County HCP, the status of the project, and how the HCP hopes to benefit prairie species in Benton County.

April 23, 2008: HCP Planning Team member, Lori Wisheart, was invited to participate in the US Forest Service Restoration for a Reason Workshop. Lori discussed the goals of the Benton County HCP, the status of the project, and how the HCP hopes to benefit prairie habitats in Benton County.

May 6, 2008: HCP Planning Team member, Carolyn Menke, was invited to discuss the HCP at the Wren Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting in Wren. Carolyn discussed the goals of the Benton County HCP, the status of the project, and how the HCP hopes to benefit prairie habitats in Benton County.

May 8, 2008: HCP Planning Team member, Carolyn Menke, was invited to discuss the HCP at the Luckiamute Watershed Council Meeting in Monmouth. Carolyn discussed the goals of the Benton County HCP, the status of the project, and how the HCP hopes to benefit prairie habitats in Benton County.

May 13, 2008: HCP Planning Team members, Carolyn Menke and Tom Kaye, were invited to discuss the HCP at the Marys River Watershed Council Meeting in Philomath. They discussed the goals of the Benton County HCP, the status of the project, and how the HCP hopes to benefit prairie habitats in Benton County.

May 15, 2008: HCP Planning Team member, Carolyn Menke, was invited to discuss the HCP at the Benton County Environmental Issues Advisory Committee in Corvallis. Carolyn discussed the goals of the Benton County HCP, the status of the project, and how the HCP hopes to benefit prairie habitats in Benton County.

June 11, 2008: HCP Planning Team member, Carolyn Menke, was invited to give an update to the Benton County Parks Advisory Board in Corvallis. Carolyn discussed the goals of the Benton County HCP, the status of the project, and how the HCP hopes to benefit prairie habitats in Benton County.

September 22-23, 2008: HCP Planning Team members, Jeff Powers, Jerry Davis and Tom Kaye, attended the Oregon Parks and Recreation Association Conference in Bent, OR. They discussed the goals and rationale of the Benton County HCP, the status of the project, and how the HCP hopes to benefit prairie habitats in Benton County.

December 11, 2008: HCP Planning Team member, Carolyn Menke, was invited to give an update to the Benton County Parks Advisory Board in Corvallis. Carolyn discussed the goals of the Benton County HCP, the status of the project, including upcoming public review of the draft, and how the HCP hopes to benefit prairie habitats in Benton County.

February 9, 2009. HCP Planning Team member, Tom Kaye, was invited to give a presentation to the Oregon Native Plant Society of Corvallis describing how the HCP would affect plant conservation in Benton County.

February 17, 2009. HCP Planning Team member, Carolyn Menke, was invited to give a presentation to the City of Corvallis Watershed Advisory Board describing the HCP and how it would interface with the Corvallis Watershed.

March 10, 2009. HCP Planning Team members participated in the Marys River Watershed Council-facilitated "Community Conversation" about the Benton County HCP. Planning team members answered questions from the public and described the HCP process.

April 20, 2009. HCP Planning Team Members Tom Kaye, Jeff Powers, and Greg Verret invited local realty professionals working in Benton County to an informational meeting about the Habitat Conservation Plan, which detailed how the proposed HCP would affect private lands within the Fender's Blue Zone.

January 27, 2010. HCP Planning Team member, Tom Kaye, gave an invited guest lecture about the Benton County Prairie Species HCP and HCP development process to an OSU Environmental Science class.

February 23, 2010, HCP Planning Team member, Tom Kaye, gave an invited guest lecture about the Benton County Prairie Species HCP and HCP development process to an OSU Geography of Resource Use class.

1.4 Public Meetings

Benton County sought public participation through several public meetings.

January 22, 2007: Benton County held an evening public meeting in Corvallis to explain the HCP process and goals, describe the species to be covered and give an estimated time frame for completing the HCP. HCP Planning Team members answered extensive questions from the public.

October 15, 2007: Benton County held an evening public meeting in Corvallis. The focus of the meeting was an update of activities undertaken by the County, including results of the 2007 field season, hotspot mapping, potential conservation measures, and development of a Prairie Conservation Strategy.

January 27, 28, & 31, 2009: Benton County held three evening public meetings in Corvallis, Wren and Kings Valley, respectively. The County introduced the draft HCP, explained the public process around the draft, answered questions, and took public comment.

September 16, 2009: Benton County held an evening public meeting in Corvallis. The County introduced the revised draft HCP, described the Prairie Conservation Strategy, explained the timeline and public process around the draft, answered questions, and took public comment.

October 12, 2010. In coordination with the USFWS public comment period on the draft HCP, Benton County held a public meeting in Corvallis to present the draft HCP and answer questions.