

The Inside Story on Protecting Nature in

# Oregon

*Your vote  
 for Oregon's future  
 see inside*



Coburg Ridge Preserve's hilltop prairies and oak woodlands east of Eugene are visible for miles around. The fact that this new preserve is the largest private-land nature sanctuary in the Willamette Valley is a tribute to the foresight and commitment of landowners John and Robin Jaqua, pictured above in the 1980s. Photo courtesy of the Jaqua family

## Family protects rare Willamette Valley gem

*The Jaqua family, The Nature Conservancy and partners have created a permanent nature sanctuary of rare native prairie and woodland habitats in the southern Willamette Valley. The new Coburg Ridge Preserve is the largest private-land nature preserve ever established in the valley.*

Across the river from their McKenzie Oaks Ranch, the Jaquas can see subdivisions lining the opposite bank. And they're intent on keeping their skyline one of prairie and tree-covered hills instead of rooftops.

Since designating 1,244 acres in the Coburg hills as a permanent nature sanctuary, John and Robin Jaqua can rest assured that their skyline will endure.

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Special Insert:

2008 natural history excursions

## Measure 49 key to Oregon's future

Dear Friend:

Many of our staff, trustees and volunteers have been burning the midnight oil on behalf of Measure 49, which will fix the flaws of Measure 37 and protect Oregon's farmland, forests and natural areas from harmful development. I hope you are aware that The Nature Conservancy has joined a diverse coalition including business and community leaders, the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation and conservationists working together to pass Measure 49.

Measure 49 is a watershed moment for Oregon, a decision that will likely shape the future health of our lands, waters and wildlife forever. It also marks a milestone for the Conservancy. As our state's largest conservation organization, we're joining others seeking responsible and fair solutions for Oregon's land use system.

**"I'm very proud of the Conservancy in Oregon boldly leading the charge on the land use initiative. It's more important than any other project ever undertaken here."**

**- Tom McAllister**

A strategic and fair land use system is a prerequisite for effective and lasting conservation. The science that drives our conservation work makes that clear. In addition to owning lands that protect some of our state's most precious natural diversity, we must also work with other stakeholders to ensure that wildlife corridors and water flows are kept intact and that efforts involving habitat restoration, invasive control, prescribed fire and open space protection are well coordinated across the landscape.

Our good friend Tom McAllister, venerable outdoor writer, natural historian, and chair of the Conservancy's Oregon chapter 25 years ago, recently told me, "I'm very proud of the Conservancy in Oregon boldly leading the charge on the land use initiative. It's more important than any other project ever undertaken here." Coming from a leader who was involved in acquiring some of our most important preserves, that is a powerful statement.

Many thanks to Tom, and to you, and to all our members for your generous and steadfast support. You enable us to pursue conservation in Oregon and around the world with our unique combination of passion, planning and practical science. Special thanks also to those who've contributed directly to the Yes on 49 campaign. And please don't forget to turn in your ballot by November 6!



Russell Hoeflich  
Vice President and Oregon Director

## ... Willamette Valley gem



© Rick McEwan

Coburg Ridge Preserve's native prairie and oak woodland habitats are expected to benefit at least 25 species identified as meriting increased habitat protection in the Willamette Valley. In addition to the Fender's blue butterfly, species include the western gray squirrel, horned lark, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, Kincaid's lupine and the western meadowlark, Oregon's state bird.

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The new Coburg Ridge Preserve safeguards one of the four largest remaining populations of the Fender's blue butterfly, a rare Willamette Valley native federally identified as an endangered species. The preserve's native prairie and oak woodland habitats are also important to dozens of bird and other wildlife species.

The Jaqua farm, originally homesteaded in the 1850s and purchased in the 1950s by John and Robin, begins in bottomlands along the McKenzie River east of Eugene and runs up into the Coburg foothills and ridges covered with grasslands, oak woodlands, streams and forest. Scientists have long identified uplands in the Coburg Hills as prime examples of Willamette Valley native grasslands and woodlands.

"Native upland prairie and oak habitats once occupied 1.75 million acres in the Willamette Valley. High quality examples are rare today, and this is one of the best there is," said Russ Hoeflich, director of the Conservancy in Oregon. "The Jaqua family has done a tremendous service to Oregonians by taking great care of this important natural area and making sure it stays protected for future generations."

The Jaqua's children grew up on the McKenzie Oaks Ranch in Huck Finn fashion, finding secret hideouts in the hills and along the riverbanks, riding horses, hiking and fishing. And working alongside their parents to build the farm operation. Jon Jaqua, John and Robin's son, has watched his children do the same. The unique diversity of Coburg Ridge should be preserved for generations to come, he said.

The 1989 rediscovery of the Fender's blue butterfly, previously thought extinct, accelerated efforts to identify and protect the best remnants of native

prairie in the valley. The butterfly was found on Coburg Ridge, and, for over a decade, the Jaqua family has invited conservation scientists onto their property to study the butterfly and test strategies for restoring its habitats.

With funding from the Bonneville Power Administration's Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Jaquas agreed to designate part of their historic farm as a nature sanctuary in a conservation easement held by The Nature Conservancy. The permanent easement provides an opportunity to expand populations of the Fender's blue butterfly and improve habitats for at least 24 other at-risk species. The Jaqua family has also generously committed to create an endowment for long-term management of the new preserve.

On the preserve, the Conservancy is conducting inventories of plant and wildlife populations and habitat conditions. Restoration efforts include removing invasive plants such as blackberry, replanting of native grasses and wildflowers, and removal of overshadowing Douglas-fir trees to revitalize oak habitats.

Access to the new preserve will be available through the Conservancy to researchers, land managers and others studying the restoration of native Willamette Valley habitats. The public will be invited to participate in guided tours and volunteer work parties on the property.

For highlights of our conservation work across the state, and to read about the Conservation Leadership Award winners, Volunteers of the Year, financial information and more, download the 2007 Oregon annual report from our Web site, [nature.org/oregon](http://nature.org/oregon), in January.

# Q&A with Mark Stern, the Conservancy's Klamath Basin conservation director

Scientists use explosive conservation techniques for restoration at the Williamson River Delta

## Can you tell us about the work at Williamson River Delta Preserve?

Over the last 10 years, the Conservancy has been working with partners on a significant wetland restoration effort. The recipe for restoring wetlands is simple: add water. Restoration at Williamson River Delta Preserve – one of the largest projects of its kind in the West – involves removing levees to restore historic wetlands that had, in the 1940s, been converted for agricultural use.

## Why is that important?

The current levees surrounding the delta act as an unnatural barrier between the wetlands and Upper Klamath and Agency lakes, creating unhealthy conditions for fish like the endangered shortnose sucker and Lost River sucker. Breaching those dikes will benefit these fish species, water quality, water storage and other wildlife.

## You are planning a rather unusual restoration technique involving the use of explosives.

### Can you tell us more?

We've determined that the safest way to remove some unstable levees is to use explosives. About two miles



This summer and fall, contractors have been preparing for the breaching by shaving the tops and sides of the levees and preparing for placement of the explosive charges in four strategically chosen locations. © Larry Turner

of levees will be demolished, and when that happens, waters from Upper Klamath and Agency lakes will inundate the site, covering about 2,500 to 3,000 acres with water, as much as six feet deep in some places.

As you might imagine, there are substantial safety and security procedures required for this technique. We are working with a team of experienced engineers and contractors to ensure a safe and accurate restoration process.

## What's next after the blasts?

Based on results from this year's work, we will continue our efforts on the south half of the river delta, reconnecting an additional 2,000 acres of historic wetlands to Upper Klamath Lake by 2009.

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## There are many ways to help protect our natural world ...



Alvord Desert, southeast Oregon © Jason Seivers/TNC

As a member of The Nature Conservancy, the most common way to support our efforts to protect our natural world is writing a check. But, it's not the only way. Here are some additional tax-wise options for you to consider:

**Gifts of Stock:** By transferring appreciated stock to The Nature Conservancy, you can avoid the stock's capital gain tax while receiving a charitable income tax deduction for its full fair market value (if you itemize your deductions).

**Gifts of Real Estate:** The Nature Conservancy accepts gifts of all types of real estate, including undeveloped land and residential and commercial properties. By deeding the property directly to us, you can avoid capital gains tax as well as the time and effort to maintain and sell the property. Real estate gifts can take several weeks to process, however, so plan accordingly for a 2007 gift. Minimum gift \$100,000.

**Gifts that Provide Income:** The Nature Conservancy offers a variety of gift plans that pay you and/or your loved ones an income for remaining lifetimes. You also receive an immediate income tax deduction, and may receive tax-favored income. Minimum age 50, minimum gift \$5,000.

**Gifts from your IRA:** For members age 70.5 and older, you can make a distribution from your IRA directly to The Nature Conservancy without including it in your income. Please contact us in advance of making such a gift, so we can make sure it is processed properly. Minimum age 70.5, maximum gift \$100,000.

For more information about any of these gift options, please contact Wes Milligan, director of planned giving, at 503 802-8100 or [wmilligan@tnc.org](mailto:wmilligan@tnc.org). You can also fill out this coupon and mail it in the enclosed envelope.

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The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people.

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503 802-8100 nature.org/oregon Melissa Roy-Hart, editor

## The Nature Conservancy in Oregon

Western meadowlark  
(*Sturnella neglecta*)  
© Jim Cruce



Member Households  
22,489

Last Great Places  
Society Members  
66

Acres protected  
494,145

Acres managed  
140,417

Preserves and cooperatively  
managed areas  
46

### Last Great Places Society

We extend our deep appreciation to members of Oregon's Last Great Places Society – and to others listed here who have contributed gifts of \$10,000 or more since July, 2006 – for maintaining The Nature Conservancy's capacity to preserve the diversity of life on Earth.

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### Protecting nature with photography

An osprey dives for dinner in Upper Klamath Lake. Snow drifts over Sycan Marsh. A butterfly peeks around a Zumwalt Prairie wildflower. These are but a few spectacular scenes captured by volunteer photographer Rick McEwan.



© Sharon McEwan

For over two years, Rick, a retired teacher living in northeast Oregon, has generously shared his awe-inspiring imagery with The Nature Conservancy. He's logged thousands of miles seeking, as he puts it, "the moment the ordinary becomes extraordinary." Over three weeks last spring, for example, Rick traveled to over ten Nature Conservancy preserves, spending time with staff while shooting hundreds of breathtaking images. "Rick's ability to convey the subtle beauties and complexities of restoration sites is an undeniable asset to the Conservancy's work," said director of communications Stephen Anderson. "We really can't thank him enough for the time he's selflessly given to our cause."

To see a sampling of Rick's preserve photos – and for more information about how you or your team can help protect Oregon's ecologically important lands and waters – please visit the volunteer section of our Web site, nature.org/oregon.



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