

The Inside Story on Protecting Nature in

# Oregon



The North Pacific is one of Earth's least protected marine regions – and one of its most productive and diverse. With partners, The Nature Conservancy is helping to evaluate sites off the Oregon Coast where natural resources will receive greater protection than surrounding waters. © Rick McEwan

## Beyond the edge of land

*Community teams shape Oregon proposals for marine reserves and protected areas*

It was a treasured routine. On Fridays, Debbie Pickering went down to the fish market in Lincoln City and got fresh, local red snapper for dinner. But that was 30 years ago. “Now you just can’t get it, or it’s too expensive,” she said.

The causes may be complex, but too many fishers chasing too few fish likely has something to do with it. For Pickering, coastal ecologist for the Conservancy, the missing rockfish make the issue personal. The red snapper, and a myriad of other creatures, are on her mind as she works with a community team for a proposed marine reserve off Cascade Head, where she’s devoted much of her career.

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Special Insert:  
 2010 Volunteer Newsletter

## Good neighbors, great conservation

Buying land is expensive business. Ask anyone shopping in Oregon's Willamette Valley, where land values are high. Like everywhere we work, investments here need to be strategic, getting the most bang for your conservation buck.

That's why The Nature Conservancy — in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, universities and others — recently completed an unprecedented effort to synthesize previous conservation planning in the valley, with a goal of shared priorities for all.

Among the lessons learned: all the experts agree that fish and wildlife refuges are good anchors for broader conservation. But that's not news to us. The Nature Conservancy has worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for years, protecting important habitats in the Willamette Valley and beyond.

That teamwork over time, in fact, is one of the reasons why the Conservancy chose Baskett Butte, adjacent to the Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge west of Salem, as its newest Willamette Valley preserve. The other? Some of the most significant native prairie and oak habitats left in the region.

"The entire Willamette Valley was once dominated by prairie and oak savanna, but today less than 2 percent of those habitats remain," said Ed Alverson, the Conservancy's stewardship ecologist based in Eugene. "Baskett Butte's landscapes are extremely important since they're still relatively intact. Like the refuge's stewards, the family has taken great care over the years to keep the land healthy."

Supported by fish and wildlife mitigation grants from the Bonneville Power Administration, the 152-acre conservation easement at Baskett Butte — in combination with a 10-acre purchase at Willow Creek Preserve in West Eugene — provides and connects critical habitat for several endangered species including the Fender's blue butterfly and its host plant, the threatened Kincaid's lupine. The hope, Alverson said, is that butterflies will use the habitat corridors to mix populations and diversify the species.

The Nature Conservancy is working with the service to manage Baskett Butte Preserve in tandem with strategies at the wildlife refuge. Restoration activities at both new sites will include controlling invasive species, thinning encroaching trees and planting native prairie grasses and wildflowers, including the lupine and other butterfly-friendly species.

"It will take time, effort and continued cooperation across property lines to restore the valley's native prairie and oak savanna," Alverson said. "But I believe we'll get there. And I'll be first in line to thank our neighbors when we do."

## ... the edge of land



Ecologist Debbie Pickering, seen here at a volunteer naturalist training, has devoted much of her career to Cascade Head Preserve near Lincoln City. As part of a community team, she's currently working to develop recommendations for a marine reserve off the headland, one of four Oregon sites being studied. © Philip J. McCarty

*(continued from p. 1)*

What's a marine reserve? It's an area where no extractive activities are allowed. A marine protected area has lighter restrictions and is likened to a state park. It's where resources are studied, managed and protected, but are not necessarily off limits.

"I'm glad the Conservancy is taking more of a responsibility in the ocean and not stopping conservation at the edge of land," Pickering said.

Sources note that marine protected areas worldwide cover less than half of 1 percent of the ocean. Off Oregon's coast, that statistic is slimmer. Compared to Oregon's land protection, where an estimated 10 percent is in highly protected status, some think the pace of ocean conservation could be in hot water.

"People sometimes see the ocean as this benign, blue surface," said Dick Vander Schaaf, the Conservancy's Oregon director of marine conservation. "But the ocean is a world of complex ecosystems and species that are wondrous and dynamic. It's really not just sand."

Oregon's coastal waters were already flanked by marine protected areas in Washington and California in 2005 when Oregon officials began a public process for establishing our own network. A Conservancy assessment of Pacific Northwest marine conservation needs and priorities helped inform recommendations of the state's Ocean Policy Advisory Council. From that process, last year, the Oregon Legislature designated a marine protected area and two marine reserves and asked for evaluation of another four.

The state designated Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve and Marine Protected Area and Otter Rock Marine Reserve. The areas will be used for research, biodiversity conservation and recreational uses that don't disturb ocean resources. The Oregon Department

of Fish and Wildlife created community groups for the potential sites — off Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, Cape Perpetua and Cape Arago. The groups' recommendations are due in November and will be addressed in the 2011 legislative session.

Vander Schaaf sits on the Redfish Rocks team that is chartered to draft monitoring and management plans for the new site. He also sits on the team evaluating the proposal for a marine reserve off Cape Falcon. Pickering is an alternate for the Cascade Head team.

Both want to see more marine protected areas, but neither thinks the process will be smooth sailing. Communities are keen to protect natural resources, but are also worried about economic impacts of designations; some fishing folks — protective of their livelihood and history — don't embrace more regulation.

But Pickering hopes to see red snapper in local fish markets again. And maybe, she said, marine reserves and protected areas, which benefit the ocean's complex systems, can help.

For more details on Redfish Rocks and scientific discoveries, visit [nature.org/oregon](http://nature.org/oregon). Keep updated on the reserve process from the state's site, [oregonocean.info/marinereserves](http://oregonocean.info/marinereserves).

### See Oceans, Save Oceans

Celebrate Earth Day by supporting The Nature Conservancy's work to protect coral reefs. For every moviegoer who sees "OCEANS" April 22-28, Disney will give a portion of ticket sales to the Conservancy's work in The Bahamas.

Learn more about this exciting partnership and how you can help save a coral kingdom at [nature.org/disney](http://nature.org/disney).

# In the heart of the Pacific Flyway, Sycan Marsh Preserve turns 30

Reflections from Mark Stern, the Conservancy's Klamath Basin conservation director

## And we're off!

In 1980, when The Nature Conservancy purchased the now 30,539-acre Sycan Marsh Preserve, I was neck-deep in sandhill cranes and cattle at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. That path led to Sycan, where I've spent much of my last thirty years — from a student researcher living in a tent six months at a time, counting birds and monitoring plants, to a big city "suit," missing the marsh, but still working hard to protect it.

To think it's been three decades is unbelievable, but when I contemplate all that's been accomplished and learned, I guess it must be true. From early morning pronghorn visits while quietly crouched in a blind, to hanging out with buckaroos as they rounded up cattle from the historic ZX Ranch, to working with staff to balance grazing impacts with restoration goals, to driving 30 miles on gravel for a payphone — it's been a wild ride. I wouldn't trade it for anything.

## Lessons learned

Sycan's lessons are too vast to measure, even for a scientist. But there are a few standouts, like not every secret reveals itself right away. The Conservancy purchased the mile-high meadow to protect and restore diverse wetland habitats, and we're doing that. But to



For more information about Sycan Marsh Preserve and a slideshow, go online to [nature.org/oregon](http://nature.org/oregon). © Rick McEwan

also find yellow rails, threatened bull trout, Oregon's second largest population of breeding sandhill cranes and more? What a bonus! We knew Sycan was unique, but turns out we really had no idea.

Also, I've learned that to protect important natural places, we need to reach out — and listen. To the cranes echoing across the marsh, to the coyotes howling in the dark, and to our neighbors working the land across generations. We all have a lot to learn from each other and, when approached with respect and care, together we can achieve a lot. Collaborations at Sycan Marsh, and across the Klamath Basin, are proof of that.

## Looking to the future

Thanks to long-term restoration activities like reintroducing fire to the land, I see a much healthier forest surrounding the marsh thirty years from now, more open with large trees freed from crowding undergrowth. I do worry about effects of global warming and how less snowmelt may mean the marsh is drier in late summer, potentially altering habitats and the wildlife they support. I'm sure lots of life will remain; it's a resilient place. I just wonder what the marsh will look like, and hope I'll be around to see it.

## Help Us Conserve More: Get Your News Electronically!

To reduce our impact on the environment, The Nature Conservancy now offers an eco-friendly delivery option that enables you to receive many Conservancy publications via e-mail, including this Oregon newsletter.

To sign up, submit an online form today at [support.nature.org/OregonNews](http://support.nature.org/OregonNews) — and please accept our thanks for everything you do to help preserve life on Earth.

## Benefit nature, and create financial benefits for yourself



Zumwalt Prairie Preserve in Oregon's northeast corner © Rick McEwan

As a member of The Nature Conservancy, we know that you are passionate about protecting our natural world for future generations. But did you know that you can make a gift now that will provide income for you or a loved one for your lifetimes, and also help us to protect special places in the future?

With a life income gift, you can receive income, a charitable income tax deduction, and possibly avoid capital gains tax on appreciated assets? There are a variety of options for gifts, including appreciated stock or real estate, as well as cash. We provide the expertise to make these gifts as simple as possible, while you enjoy the tax benefits and the knowledge that you are leaving a legacy of conservation for those who follow us.

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 [complete and submit this inquiry form](#), and learn more at the Conservancy's planned giving Web site, [nature.org/annuity](http://nature.org/annuity).

Please consult with your professional financial advisor before making a charitable gift. PORPM100302001

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

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



A juvenile bald eagle hunts on Oregon's South Coast  
(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

© Rick McEwan

Member Households  
20,837

Last Great Places  
Society Members  
55

Acres protected  
503,415

Acres managed  
141,831

Preserves and cooperatively  
managed areas

47

## 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 January, 2009 — for maintaining The Nature Conservancy's capacity to preserve the diversity of life on Earth.

Anonymous (5) · Robert S. & Julia S. Ball · John & Patty Bentley · Katherine Bisbee II Fund\* · Mr. & Mrs. John Carter · Liz & Neil Cawood · Dr. Edgar E. Clark & Dr. Janet R. Roberts · Jeff Clark · Mrs. Maribeth W. Collins · Mr. & Mrs. Truman Collins · Crane Creek Family Fund\* · Mr. & Mrs. Paul Crowder · Mr. & Mrs. Mark Dodson · James J. & Diane B. Drake · Stephanie J. Fowler & Irving J. Levin/Renaissance Foundation · Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gibbs · Frank C. & Mary K. Gill · Glen E. Guttormsen · David C. Harrison & Joyce Millen · Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Hayes Jr. · Clifford H. Heselton · Hollis Fund\* · Judith & Kirk Johansen · Paul C. & Cheryl V. Katen · Mr. & Mrs. Michael L. Keiser Fund\* · Harry & Marguerite Kendall Fund\* · Dr. Catherine Kordesch & Dr. David Fryefield · Burton W. Lazar & Claire Stock · Michael T. Lewis · William E. Lewis · Jane & John Malarkey · Christopher & Catherine Mathews · McGrath Family Foundation · Bob & Vi Metzler · Mr. & Mrs. Walt Mintkeski · Dr. & Mrs. David Osgood · Merritt & Heather Paulson · William Swindells Jr. · Jack C. Taylor · Tomodachi Foundation · David & Christine Vernier · Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Viehl · John & Fran von Schlegell · Mr. Eric Wan & Ms. Michele A. Goodman · Richard & Doris Waring · Jeffrey A. & Phyllis B. Weih · Mr. & Mrs. William Whitsell · Wiancko Family Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole · Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Zachow

\* of The Oregon Community Foundation

## Volunteers needed for Oregon's water, parks and wildlife

Oregon is a special place — and we need your help to keep it that way! This spring, volunteers must gather at least 60,000 signatures to place an initiative on the November ballot to renew Oregon's existing dedication of lottery funds for conservation. This program has been vital to preserving fish and wildlife habitats — like Zumwalt Prairie, Sandy River Gorge and the Table Rocks — as well as protecting water quality in our rivers and streams, and improving state and local parks. But unless voters elect to keep it, this crucial funding source will soon sunset.



Every signature counts — just ask Conservancy volunteer John McClaran, who's already dedicated over 125 hours to the effort, verifying and logging voter signatures and doing community outreach. "John really stepped up and quickly organized our recruitment efforts," said Nan Evans, the Conservancy's Oregon director of government relations. "I only wish the campaign had more volunteers like him."

That's where you come in. To learn more about the Oregonians for Water, Parks and Wildlife campaign, and to help gather signatures, visit [www.waterparkswildlife.org](http://www.waterparkswildlife.org).

For more ways you can help the Conservancy protect Oregon's ecologically important lands and waters, please see our [2010 Volunteer Newsletter](#).

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Cascade Head Preserve © Rick McEwan

## Message from Molly

Thank you to more than 800 volunteers who contributed over 46,000 hours of time and effort toward accomplishing our statewide conservation goals last year — another all-time high!



Molly Dougherty, director of volunteer programs  
© Chris Purves

Much appreciation to our AmeriCorps Conservation Team (ACT) members who contributed over 20,000 of those hours to research, habitat restoration and to engaging local communities across Oregon. We hope

you can join our 2010 ACT members and other volunteers in protecting Oregon's ecologically important lands and waters.

The Nature Conservancy offers many ways for you to lend nature a hand throughout the year. Join a work party or our growing practicum/volunteer intern program. Attend one of our spring training sessions to become a crew leader, naturalist or weed watcher. Check our volunteer classifieds, visit our Web site at [nature.org/oregon/volunteer](http://nature.org/oregon/volunteer), or call us at (503) 802-8100 to see how you can get involved.

I hope to see you soon!

**D**id you know The Nature Conservancy maintains an Oregon volunteer e-mail list?

It's easy to sign up for regular e-mail updates about current and upcoming volunteer opportunities throughout the state. Just visit our Web site, [nature.org/oregon/volunteer](http://nature.org/oregon/volunteer), and follow the directions in the beige box.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## Volunteers of the Year: James Thompson and Rick McEwan



**E**ach year, we honor exceptional volunteers for efforts that significantly advance The Nature Conservancy's mission in Oregon. We are delighted to announce the 2009 Ray C. Davis Volunteer of the Year Award winners, James Thompson and Rick McEwan.

**James Thompson** has been volunteering with the Conservancy for well over a decade, first in California and then in Oregon since 1996. As a crew leader for as many as 10 volunteer work parties each field season, James has supervised hundreds of other volunteers restoring fish and wildlife habitats from the coast to the Idaho border. Plus, he regularly signs up for the most challenging assignments and jumps in to help when other crew leaders are in a pinch.

"James has built great relationships with other volunteer crew leaders, and he's extremely reliable," said Molly Dougherty, director of volunteer programs. "I would have a difficult time pulling off our ambitious work party program without him."

James says he enjoys how volunteering connects him with the land and with others who share a sense of environmental stewardship.



**Rick McEwan** first photographed Zumwalt Prairie Preserve and donated his stellar images to the Conservancy in 2004. A retired teacher living in Enterprise, he now visits Zumwalt several times a week — in all weather and seasons — capturing the dramatic landscape as well as people in action. He's volunteered statewide, shooting photos at more than 27 other sites. If you've seen Nature Conservancy publications, including this one, you've enjoyed Rick's talent and generosity.

"In many ways, Rick's work has become the face of Oregon conservation," said Jen Newlin, creative manager. "Without him, our publications and events would lack a resonating power on which we've come to depend."

"I'm honored to collaborate with the Conservancy," Rick said. "I learned my craft in the Sierra Nevada, but I honed my art on Oregon preserves."

Congratulations and genuine thanks to James and Rick. Our successes would not be possible without dedicated supporters like you.

# Volunteer Work Parties

Field season is here, which means it's time to venture out onto our preserves and give nature a boost. There are numerous opportunities this spring, summer and fall to enjoy the great outdoors while working with Conservancy ecologists and volunteer teams to protect some of Oregon's most critical habitats. For more information or to register for a work party, please call us at (503) 802-8100, or send an e-mail to [orvolunteers@tnc.org](mailto:orvolunteers@tnc.org), unless otherwise noted. When you register, you will receive a complete list of everything you should bring to be fully prepared for a fun day or weekend in the field.

## Portland Area

### Camassia Natural Area

This 27-acre preserve near West Linn features woodlands, wildflower meadows, rock gardens, ponds and willow and aspen swales. Home to over 300 plant species, including several rare ones, Camassia is a special gem in a rapidly growing urban area.

**Saturday, November 20**

Prep and plant native shrubs and trees.

### Sandy River Gorge Preserve

Just two miles east of Portland in the Sandy River Gorge, this preserve hosts pristine habitats, including an old-growth Douglas-fir forest, and provides a home to salmon, elk, river otter and other wildlife.

**Saturday, May 8**

Remove invasive species (difficult one-mile hike, 700' elevation gain)

**Saturday, May 22**

Remove invasive species (difficult 1.5-mile hike, 800' elevation gain)



Ari DeMarco, 2009 AmeriCorps Conservation Team member, helms a canoe full of invasive purple loosestrife during a Blind Slough Swamp Preserve volunteer work party. © Nikolai Danilchik/TNC

## Oregon Coast

### Blind Slough Swamp Preserve

Home to Oregon's best example of a Sitka spruce swamp, this preserve provides habitat along the Columbia River for bald eagle, osprey and river otter.

**Saturday, August 21**

**Saturday, August 28**

Remove invasive purple loosestrife (requires canoeing.)

### Cascade Head Preserve

This spectacular coastal headland near Lincoln City provides habitat for the endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly and Cascade Head catchfly.

**Saturday, June 12**

Remove blackberry.

**Saturday, June 26**

Pull pennyroyal.

**Saturday, July 24**

Build and maintain trails.

**Saturday-Sunday, August 14-15**

Remove Queen Anne's lace and teasel on the pinnacle and maintain trails.

**Saturday, September 25**

Remove Queen Anne's lace (includes a volunteer appreciation party).

### Cox Island Preserve

Located two miles east of Florence in the Siuslaw River, this low elevation salt marsh island is visited by over 80 species of waterfowl and other birds.

**Saturday, May 22**

Transplant Henderson's checkerbloom.

**Saturday-Sunday, September 11-12**

Control saltmeadow cordgrass.

## Central Oregon

### Boardman Grasslands

This preserve boasts the Columbia Plateau's best expanse of unplowed native sage and bunch grass habitats and harbors Oregon's largest viable population of the Washington ground squirrel.

**Saturday-Sunday, May 15-16**

Survey and remove invasives, collect native seed and improve facilities.

**Saturday-Sunday, November 13-14**

Plant native wildflowers.

### Juniper Hills Preserve

This 14,000-acre site on the Crooked River east of Prineville harbors ancient junipers, an outstanding diversity of bunch grasses and colorful earth formations.

**Saturday-Sunday, October 23-24**

Maintain fences, remove invasives and improve facilities.

## Klamath Basin

### Sycan Marsh Preserve

Surrounded by pine forest, this high elevation wetland is home to thousands of nesting and migrating birds, threatened fish and newly discovered aquatic creatures. To register, contact Alicia Fitzgerald,

AmeriCorps Southwest Oregon program assistant, at (541) 770-7933 ext. 5# or [afitzgerald@tnc.org](mailto:afitzgerald@tnc.org).

**Saturday-Sunday, August 21-22**

Remove fences.

## Northeast Oregon

### Dunstan Homestead Preserve

Four river miles of riparian and streambed habitat are being restored for wild salmon and steelhead on this former ranch and dairy farm.

**Saturday-Sunday, July 31 - August 1**

Remove invasives.

**Saturday-Sunday, October 16-17**

Collect native seed, assist with stream restoration and maintain and build fences.



Volunteer crew leader Erin Parker gets to the root of the invasive species problem by removing Queen Anne's lace at Cascade Head Preserve. © Philip L. McCarty

### Zumwalt Prairie Preserve

High on the edge of Hells Canyon, this 33,000-acre preserve is North America's largest remaining native bunch grass prairie, as well as home to one of its largest concentrations of nesting raptors.

**Saturday-Sunday, September 18-19**

Improve fence lines for wildlife, build shrub exclosures and improve facilities.

## Willamette Valley

### Kingston Prairie Preserve

Southeast of Stayton, this 128-acre site harboring native grasses and rare wildflowers is the best native prairie remaining in the central Willamette Valley.

**Saturday, July 24**

Collect native seed and remove invasives and fences.

## Volunteer Work Parties continued from page 2

### Yamhill Oaks Preserve

This 272-acre preserve west of McMinnville is the first-ever protected area for the endangered Fender's blue butterfly in the northern Willamette Valley.

**Saturday, August 14**

Collect native seed and remove invasives.



Volunteer George Greer (right) and AmeriCorps Conservation Team members Sean McKenzie (left) and Kai Victor removed a cabin from Rough and Ready Creek Preserve last year. © Kyle Strauss/TNC

### Willow Creek Preserve

Home to over 200 species of native plants and the rare Fender's blue butterfly, this 508-acre preserve is the ecologically richest remnant of native wet prairie in the southern Willamette Valley. To register, please contact Matt Benotsch, Willamette Valley stewardship coordinator, at (541) 343-1010 ext. 302 or [mabenotsch@tnc.org](mailto:mabenotsch@tnc.org).

**Saturday, May 8**

**Saturday, July 10**

**Saturday, October 9**

Each work party is from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Projects include propagating native plants, removing invasives and fences, clearing brush and collecting native seed. For directions and more, visit the work party section of our Web site, [nature.org/oregon/volunteer](http://nature.org/oregon/volunteer).

### Southwest Oregon

To learn more or register for a southwest Oregon volunteer work party, please contact Alicia Fitzgerald, AmeriCorps Southwest Oregon program assistant, at (541) 770-7933 ext. 5# or [afitzgerald@tnc.org](mailto:afitzgerald@tnc.org).

### Agate Desert Preserve

Located on the Agate Desert landform north of Medford, this Rogue Valley grassland provides a sanctuary for rare wildflowers and a federally listed species of fairy shrimp.

**Saturday, May 22**

Remove invasives.

### Popcorn Swale Preserve

A wildflower haven in the spring, this remnant of Umpqua Valley wet prairie near Roseburg contains tufted hairgrass and several rare plants.

**Saturday, July 10**

Remove invasives.

### Rogue River Plains Preserve

Located near the Table Rocks, this 125-acre landscape of mounded prairie and vernal pools protects the endangered large-flowered meadowfoam as well as a threatened fairy shrimp.

**Saturday, April 17**

Remove invasives.

### Rough and Ready Creek Preserve

Long treasured by botanists, this 110-acre preserve south of Cave Junction hosts a remarkable diversity of plants found nowhere else on Earth.

**Saturday, June 26**

Collect native seed.

### Whetstone Savanna Preserve

North of Medford, this preserve shelters mounded prairie and vernal pool grassland communities, and safeguards a key portion of the best remaining oak savanna habitat on the Rogue Valley floor.

**Saturday, March 27**

Remove invasives.



Volunteer interns and Conservancy staff measure plant abundance at Zumwalt Prairie Preserve near Enterprise. Go online to [nature.org/oregon/volunteer](http://nature.org/oregon/volunteer) for additional internship and practicum opportunities.

© Robert V. Taylor/TNC

## Volunteer Classifieds

Your time and talents are needed! The following volunteer positions are currently available.

For more information and to apply, please contact Molly Dougherty at (503) 802-8100 or [mdougherty@tnc.org](mailto:mdougherty@tnc.org) (unless otherwise noted).

### Preserve Stewards (Portland Area)

Restore native vegetation at Camassia Natural Area in West Linn and/or Sandy River Gorge Preserve. By clearing invasives and regularly returning to one spot, you will clearly see the "fruits" of your labor. Must be physically fit and able to work once a month for a year. Orientations will be held at Camassia on Saturday, March 27 and Friday, May 21, and at the Sandy River Gorge on Saturday, May 22 and Thursday, June 24.

### Native Habitat Restoration Interns (Portland Area)

Restore salmon habitat in the Sandy River watershed by removing invasive species. Projects include outreach, data collection, monitoring, and weed eradication with herbicides. Kayaking and rafting may be required, as is a strong swimming ability. Work is Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, with a minimum of eight 10-hour work days between June 22 and September 24.

### Field Assistants (Southwest Oregon)

Contribute to our conservation work throughout the week. Projects range from vegetation and rare plant monitoring to non-native species control and preserve maintenance. For more information, or to sign up for the Southwest Oregon volunteer e-news, please contact Alicia Fitzgerald at (541) 770-7933 ext. 5# or [afitzgerald@tnc.org](mailto:afitzgerald@tnc.org).

### Dunstan Homestead Field Assistants (Northeast Oregon)

Survey for bird species at 30 sites along the Middle Fork John Day River. Bird enthusiasts of all experience levels are encouraged, with existing audio/visual ID skills appreciated. A minimum commitment of two days between May 10 and June 27 is required. You're also invited to help eradicate invasives during a weeklong work party: July 26-31.

# Spring Training and Hiking Opportunities

**O**ur spring training schedule provides volunteers with a variety of opportunities to develop and expand leadership, naturalist or surveying skills while helping to protect some of Oregon's most remarkable places. To learn how to apply, please contact Molly Dougherty at (503) 802-8100 or [mdougherty@tnc.org](mailto:mdougherty@tnc.org) (unless otherwise noted).

## Naturalist

Like meeting the public and want to learn more about Oregon's natural history? Become a volunteer naturalist! Greet visitors, answer questions and foster compliance with visitor guidelines at our most heavily visited preserves. Volunteers patrol "their" preserves at least twice during the 2010 field season.

**Trainings: Tom McCall (season April - June) : Saturday, April 10 and Cascade Head (season May - Oct.) : Saturday, April 24**

## Crew Leader

Like working outside? This training is for you! Crew leaders provide support and leadership for work parties around the state. Volunteers commit to leading two work parties during the 2010 field season.

**Training: Saturday, May 1 (in Portland)**

## Weed Watcher

Want to help protect biodiversity while you hike? Become a "weed watcher!" Prevent the establishment of invasive plants by surveying for and reporting new infestations across Oregon. For more information, please contact Tania Siemens, invasive species project coordinator, at (541) 914-0701 or [tsiemens@tnc.org](mailto:tsiemens@tnc.org).

**Training (Multnomah County): Saturday, May 15**



Throughout the field season, volunteer naturalists share information with visitors about Cascade Head Preserve's rare plants, wildlife and grassland communities. Naturalists are also needed at Tom McCall Preserve in the Columbia River Gorge. © Philip L. McCarty

## Spring Hikes on the Table Rocks

Enjoy the wonderful wildflowers, geology, history and wildlife of these ancient landmarks near Medford. Free, naturalist-guided hikes are offered weekends throughout April and May. For a schedule, please contact Alicia Fitzgerald, AmeriCorps Southwest Oregon program assistant, at (541) 770-7933 ext. 5# or [afitzgerald@tnc.org](mailto:afitzgerald@tnc.org).



Volunteer stewards gathered for a celebration picnic last spring. Stewards regularly help restore habitats at Camassia Natural Area and Sandy River Gorge Preserve. See our "Volunteer Classifieds" inside to find out how you can get involved. © Jerry Witt



Nature Conservancy volunteer Cole Fuller mends fences at Clear Lake Ridge Preserve in Northeast Oregon.

© Garth Fuller/TNC

## See Oregon's Last Great Places – Join a Volunteer Work Party!

