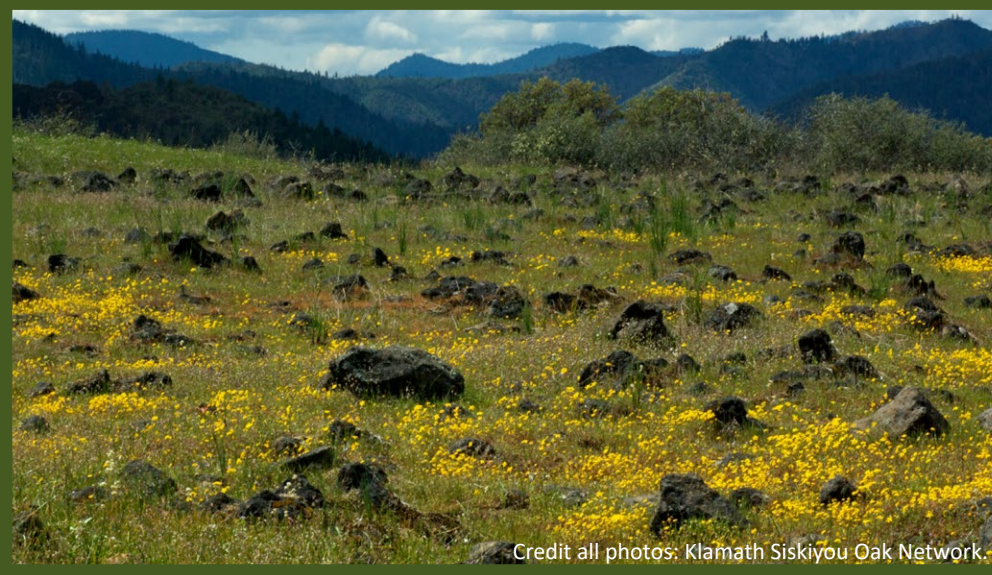


KLAMATH SISKIYOU OAK NETWORK



Credit all photos: Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network.



Partnership Overview

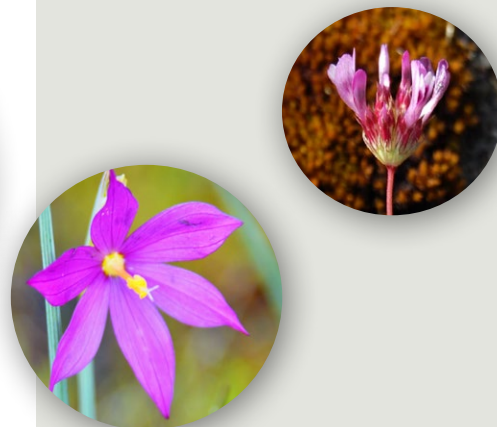
Oak-prairie ecosystems have experienced dramatic loss and degradation. Restoration action is essential, climate-smart, and will benefit wildlife and people. Guided by the Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network Strategic Conservation Action Plan, the Little Butte Oak Initiative will reduce the two highest ranked threats - fire exclusion and conifer encroachment - through restoration actions and strengthen partnerships to support future work.

In July 2022, the Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network was awarded funding through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program. A FIP is an OWEB investment that addresses a Board-identified priority of significance to the state; achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes; uses integrated and results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and is implemented by a high-performing partnership.

Initiatives are eligible for up to six years of OWEB funding. For the 2021-23 biennium, OWEB awarded \$1,373,000. When combined with investments from 2021 to 2027, the anticipated total investment is approximately \$7,048,000.

Goals by 2027

- Catalyze tribal, federal, and private landowner collaboration, support, and capacity for oak restoration through implementation of a communication strategy, and community and tribal engagement.
- Restore 2,480 acres of oak habitat within the Initiative geography using prescribed fire, reduced encroachment, noxious weed abatement, and native understory planting.



Core Implementing Partners

- Bureau of Land Management – Medford District
- Klamath Bird Observatory
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture
- Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
- The Nature Conservancy
- Understory Initiative
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

Strategies

1. Maintain and increase the amount of oak habitat acres, and increase retention of native oak species.
2. Protect target habitats from severe fire; reduce woody fuel loads and reintroduce low severity prescribed fires.
3. Maintain and enhance native plant species diversity to benefit songbirds and other wildlife while providing climate benefits.

Conservation Actions

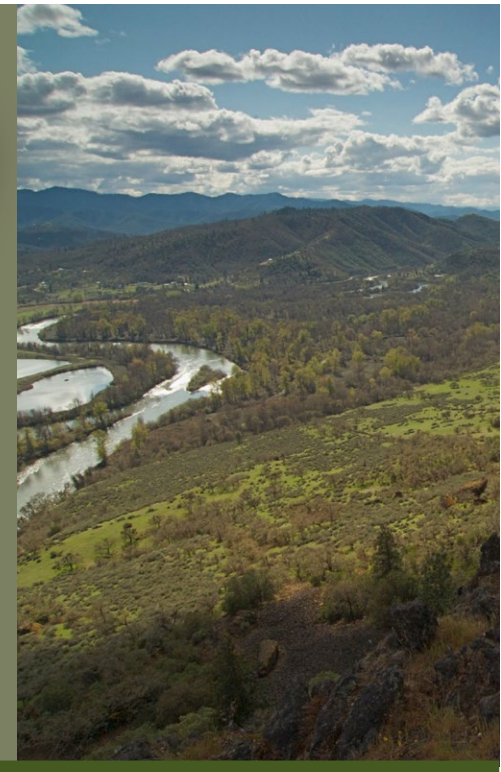
- Use established protocols and site-appropriate measures to reduce invasive species.
- Implement mechanical removal of undesirable vegetation and utilize prescribed fire, while integrating assessments of understory conditions and vectors of noxious weed spread.
- Follow up as needed with seeding, using site-appropriate native grass and forb mixes.
- Tribal engagement strategies will seek to integrate indigenous cultural burning approaches where possible when conducting prescribed burning activities.

Intermediate Ecological Outcomes

- Restore open canopy conditions and re-establish native understory species.
- Maintain a diversity of tree sizes and ages across stands with an emphasis on oak and pine species.

Longer-term Ecological Outcomes

- Maintain and increase the amount of oak that include a diversity of smaller and regenerating oaks, legacy oaks, and native understories.
- Oaks continue to provide acorns that offer a culturally beneficial use to tribal partners.
- Restored oak habitat is more resilient to disturbance including drought and climate change.
- Support conditions for focal bird species that are among the most at-risk songbirds in North America's western forests.



Ecological Outcomes

Stable populations of oak-prairie-dependent wildlife species sustained by habitat structure and native plant species composition.

Oak-prairie ecosystems resilient to habitat loss and degradation from climate, extreme fire, insects, and disease.

