





Oak Facts


 Oak habitats include savanna, woodlands, and forest. Oaks are sometimes mixed with conifers and other hardwoods, and may grow on dry or seasonally wet ground.


 Before Euro-American settlement there were over 1,000,000 acres of oak habitats in the Willamette Valley. Less than 7% of that remains today.


 Oak habitats are culturally significant and were historically stewarded by Native Americans through cultural burning practices. These practices continue today.

 Many plant and animal species depend on oak habitats and are in decline because of habitat loss.

 Dead standing trees (“snags”) and dead limbs provide important foraging and nesting cavities for wildlife.

 Oregon white oak and California black oak are native to the southern Willamette Valley and can live up to 500 years.

 Oaks require space to grow and do not tolerate shade--if left undisturbed, they will be crowded out by conifers and other fast-growing trees.

 Oaks are adapted to low-intensity fires, are less flammable than conifers, and are drought tolerant.

 Properly managing oak habitats also helps reduce risks of catastrophic wildfires.

“Application of fire is viewed by many indigenous groups as a spiritual responsibility to the land, a tool that was given to people to fulfill the caregiving responsibilities for the land and to promote world renewal.”

- Robin Wall Kimmerer and Frank Lake in “Role of Indigenous Burning in Land Management”, Journal of Forestry, Nov. 2001

Management planning support and funding opportunities are available!



More Info:
[Oregonforestmanagementplanning.org](https://oregonforestmanagementplanning.org)

Additional Resources:

A Landowner’s Guide for Restoring and Managing Oregon White Oak Habitats
https://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/files/white_oak_guide.pdf

A Practical Guide to Oak Release
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/21921>

Move Over, Douglas-fir: Oregon White Oaks Need Room to Grow
<https://www.oswegowatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ScienceFinding-WhiteOaks.pdf>

Oregon Conservation Strategy
<https://www.oregonconservationstrategy.org/>

Oregon’s Oak: A Vanishing Legacy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVzUzbO9JX4>

Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative
<https://willamettepartnership.org/wvopc/>



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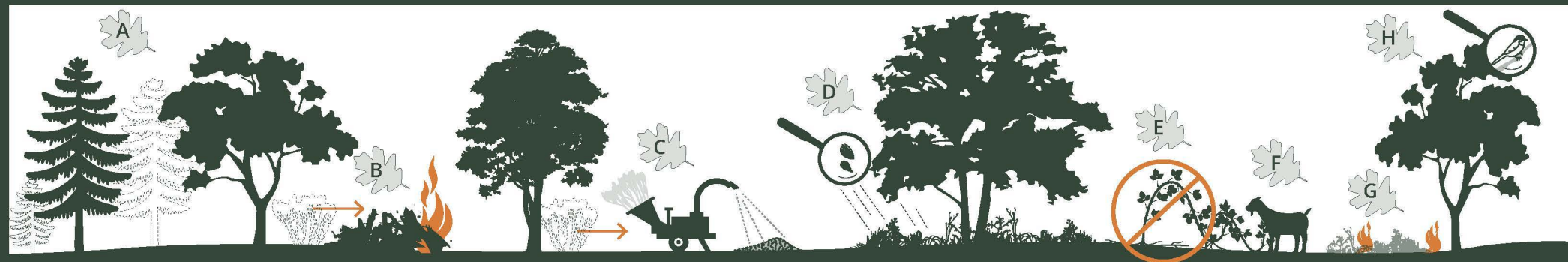
**Managing
Fire-Adapted
Oak Habitats**
in the
**South Willamette
Valley**

Managing Fuels on Oak Habitats







Before

-  Thin out conifers and overstocked small oak trees to increase growth and vigor of remaining trees.
-  Mulch, masticate, pile, burn, and/or make biochar from resulting wood.
-  Clear understories of dense shrubs, saplings, and built up thatch. Leave patches of well-formed native shrubs for wildlife habitat.
-  Seed native grasses and flowers.



After

-  Remove invasive species.
-  Maintain open understory through mowing or targeted seasonal grazing livestock every 3-10 years. Avoid disturbing habitat areas March 15-July 15 for nesting birds and native plants
-  With professional consultation and careful planning, incorporate ecological burning to continue recycling nutrients, reduce unwanted fuels, and encourage native grasses and forbs.
-  Learn to identify and pay attention to local plants, birds, and other wildlife on your property.



Acorn Woodpecker
(Photo: Dennis Donohue)



Camas



Oregon Sunshine



Blue-Eyed Grass