



## **Prairie, Oaks, and People: A Resource for Conservation Practitioners** *Leverage the Regional Strategy to Amplify Your Local Conservation Efforts*

### **Overview**

The **Prairie, Oaks, and People Investment Strategy** offers a comprehensive roadmap for protecting and restoring oak and prairie ecosystems across the Pacific Northwest. The strategy's detailed financial requirements and strategic goals provide a clear outline for fundraising efforts, demonstrating a well-structured approach to conservation. This strategy is a powerful tool for positioning your work as part of a larger, impactful movement, attracting funding, and mobilizing partnerships.

With uncertainty surrounding federal conservation, private investment and state and local support are more critical than ever. This resource provides the data, priorities, and strategies you need to develop compelling proposals and demonstrate your projects' value to funders and constituencies.

### **What This Plan Offers You**

#### **1. A Clear Case for Investment**

The plan outlines a \$304.2 million strategy to protect, restore, and steward oak and prairie ecosystems over five years.

Use this framework to:

- Show funders where their contributions fit into a broader, coordinated regional effort.
- Highlight the readiness of projects for immediate implementation.
- Elevate needs for funding capacity, workforce development, and coordination.

#### **2. Compelling Goals and Priorities**

The plan includes clear, actionable goals and metrics, such as:

- Ecosystem Protection: Secure 10,200 acres of critical habitat.
- Ecosystem Restoration: Restore 60,000 acres through proven methods.
- Species Recovery: Downlist 5 species by building on past collaborative successes.

Use these metrics to align your local project goals with regional priorities and illustrate how your work contributes to large-scale outcomes.

#### **3. Practical Tools for Fundraising**

The plan identifies key co-benefits of oak and prairie conservation, such as:

- Wildfire Risk Reduction: Restoring fire-adapted ecosystems to mitigate wildfire threats.
- Community and Landscape Durability and Risk Reduction: Increasing carbon storage and water retention.
- Community Benefits: Creating jobs and preserving cultural and recreational values.

Frame your proposals around these outcomes to appeal to funders' interests in climate action, economic development, and community well-being.

### **How to Use the Plan in Your Fundraising Efforts**

#### **1. Align Your Projects with Regional Priorities**

By showing how your work fits within the larger context of oak and prairie conservation, you can strengthen your case for funding and partnerships. Tailor your proposals to reference specific goals and metrics from the plan.

## 2. Emphasize Readiness and Impact

Funders are eager to invest in projects that are ready to implement and deliver measurable outcomes. Use the plan's investment priorities to illustrate how your project can contribute to immediate, on-the-ground results.

## 3. Leverage Partnerships and Collaboration

The plan emphasizes the importance of cross-sector collaboration among public, private, and tribal partners. Highlight your role in these partnerships to demonstrate your capacity to scale solutions and deliver lasting impact.

## 4. Tell a Compelling Story

Use the plan's narratives and success stories to build an emotional connection with potential funders. Showcase the tangible benefits of oak and prairie conservation for people, wildlife, and communities.

## 5. Access Available Resources

Visit [oakalliance.org](http://oakalliance.org) to download the full plan and related materials. These resources include detailed investment strategies, case studies, and regional context to strengthen your proposals and presentations. Tables and images are also available for download.

### **Reference Tables: A Key Resource for Practitioners**

The plan includes a variety of reference tables that are particularly useful for practitioners as they build and present funding proposals. These tables provide:

**Funding Needs by Category:** Clear breakdowns of how funds will be allocated across ecosystem protection, restoration, species recovery, and community-building efforts. This helps you present a clear and transparent financial picture to potential donors.

**Impact Metrics:** A summary of measurable outcomes such as acres protected and restored by region, species recovered, and quick facts about oak and prairie species and habitat, making it easy to demonstrate the tangible impact your project can achieve in alignment with regional and national goals.

**Success Stories and Case Studies:** Key examples from the region, showing how collaborative partnerships and previous investments have successfully protected and restored oak and prairie habitats.

**Species Regulatory Status and Range Occurrence:** Tables that show the federal, state, and provincial regulatory status of oak and prairie-dependent species from British Columbia to Northwest California and the breeding range occurrence by region. This helps you know what is in your region and connect to those species in your work and proposals.

These tables can be directly incorporated into your own proposals, making it easier to explain the scope, outcomes, and alignment of your work with broader regional efforts.

**Want to Connect?** Did you know that local Oak and Prairie Partnerships now blanket the Pacific Northwest? To connect with your local partnership coordinator and find resources, visit [oakalliance.org](http://oakalliance.org).

**Looking for more technical resources?** Visit CPOP at <https://cascadiaprairieoak.org/technical-library>