

**Table 1. Oak and Prairie Planner Guidelines for Enhancing Oak and Prairie Habitat**

Desired Conditions	Oak and Prairie Guidelines	NRCS Practice	Focal and Imperiled Bird Species That May Benefit
<b>Diverse Habitat Structures</b>	Aim to have multiple oak age classes represented.	Forest Stand Improvement (666) Woody Residue Treatment (384)	Western Wood-Pewee  Cassin's Vireo (all except North Willamette Valley and East Cascades) Hutton's Vireo (all except East Cascades) House Wren Oak Titmouse (Rogue Basin only) Bushtit Lark Sparrow (Klamath Mountains only) Purple Finch
	If oak regeneration is low or non-existent plant acorns or oak seedlings.	Tree-Shrub Establishment (612)	
	Reclaim and maintain natural openings and edges.	Forest Stand Improvement (666) Brush Management (314) Woody Residue Treatment (384)	
	Leave some brush piles for wildlife and to protect regenerating trees and shrubs.	Structures for Wildlife (649)	
	Keep trees with unique wildlife benefits.	n/a	
<b>Large, Old Oak Trees</b>	Keep legacy conifers and other hardwoods.	n/a	Acorn Woodpecker White-breasted Nuthatch California Scrub-Jay Western Bluebird
	Remove conifers and hardwoods that encroach upon large, old oaks.	Forest Stand Improvement (666) Woody Residue Treatment (384)	
	If you have multi-stemmed oaks keep in mind that each clump of connected stems functions as a single organism.	n/a	
<b>Snags and Downed Wood</b>	Retain snags and downed wood for the benefit of wildlife.	n/a	White-breasted Nuthatch Western Bluebird
	Girdle conifers to create snags in areas with few or no snags.	Structures for Wildlife (649)	

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<p><b>Snags and Downed Wood</b></p> <p><i>(Continued)</i></p>	Retain all dead oak limbs.	n/a	<i>(See prior page)</i>
	Aim to have snags of various sizes, tree species, and levels of decay.	Structures for Wildlife (649)	
<p><b>Restored or Retained Native Understory</b></p>	<p>Characterize current conditions and develop an integrated weed control approach based on current composition. Utilize a combination of mowing, burning, hand pulling, and (if tolerable) herbicides to control weeds</p>	Herbaceous Weed Control (315)	<p>Western Bluebird</p> <p>Chipping Sparrow</p> <p>Savannah Sparrow</p> <p>Vesper Sparrow (all except East Cascades)</p> <p>Western Meadowlark</p>
	<p>Minimize likelihood non-native species will establish by minimizing ground disturbance and reseeding areas where disturbance occurs. Source locally grown native seed</p>	Wildlife Planting (420)	
	<p>Consider historic conditions to determine your desired shrub cover. Generally retain variably-sized patches of dense native vegetation if it is present and does not pose a fire hazard to homes or community.</p>	<p>Forest Stand Improvement (666)</p> <p>Brush Management (314)</p> <p>Woody Residue Treatment (384)</p>	
	<p>Prescribed fire timing is critical. Oak habitats dominated by native species should be burned in the fall, but habitats dominated by exotic species should be burned in the mid to late-spring.</p>	Prescribed Burning (338)	
	<p>Retain and/or plant native perennial grasses. Strive for a diverse, native understory with a balance of grasses, forbs, and shrubs.</p>	<p>Wildlife Planting (420)</p> <p>Conservation Cover (327)</p>	
	<p>Encourage native understories by seeding grass and forbs into mineral rich ashes following prescribed fire or restoration thinning.</p>	<p>Wildlife Planting (420)</p> <p>Conservation Cover (327)</p>	

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<b>Frequent, Low-Intensity Fire</b>	Understand the liability associated with prescribed burning and reach out to professionals for guidance.	Prescribed Burning (338)	Acorn Woodpecker Western Wood-Pewee Cassin's Vireo (all except North Willamette Valley and East Cascades)
	Complete mechanical fuel reduction treatments prior if needed to reduce fuel loads prior to understory burning (note, lower oak branches are not considered ladder fuels).	Forest Stand Improvement (666) Brush Management (314) Woody Residue Treatment (384)	Hutton's Vireo (all except East Cascades) House Wren Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (Klamath Mountains only) Oak Titmouse (Rogue Basin only)
	Ensure stand conditions are suitable. Open canopy conditions and low stocking rates minimize crown fire.	Forest Stand Improvement (666) Brush Management (314) Woody Residue Treatment (384)	Bushtit White-breasted Nuthatch California Scrub-Jay Western Bluebird
	Protect important habitat components, like snags, downed wood, and large oaks prior to burning.	Structures for Wildlife (649)	Chipping Sparrow Lark Sparrow (Klamath Mountains only) Savannah Sparrow
	Prescribed fire in the spring should be done prior to onset of leaf development, prescribed fire in the autumn should be scheduled after oaks have lost their leaves.	Prescribed Burning (338)	Vesper Sparrow (all except East Cascades) California Towhee (Klamath Mountains only) Western Meadowlark Purple Finch Lazuli Bunting
<b>Healthy, Functional Chaparral</b>	Maintain management practices that control non-native species.	Herbaceous Weed Control (315)	<i>(See following page)</i>

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<p><b>Healthy, Functional Chaparral</b></p> <p><i>(Continued)</i></p>	<p>Restore a variety of oak woodland types and conditions.</p>	<p>Forest Stand Improvement (666)</p> <p>Brush Management (314)</p> <p>Woody Residue Treatment (384)</p>	<p>Hutton's Vireo (all except East Cascades)</p> <p>House Wren Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (Klamath Mountains only)</p> <p>Oak Titmouse (Rogue Basin only)</p> <p>Bushtit</p> <p>California Towhee (Klamath Mountains only)</p> <p>Lazuli Bunting</p>
	<p>Apply low-impact treatments like hand pile and burn.</p>	<p>Forest Stand Improvement (666)</p> <p>Brush Management (314)</p> <p>Woody Residue Treatment (384)</p>	
	<p>Retain large (5-12 acres) patches of chaparral.</p>	<p>Forest Stand Improvement (666)</p> <p>Brush Management (314)</p> <p>Woody Residue Treatment (384)</p>	
	<p>Leave smaller patches near each other.</p>	<p>Forest Stand Improvement (666)</p> <p>Brush Management (314)</p> <p>Woody Residue Treatment (384)</p>	
<p><b>Balanced Grazing</b></p>	<p>Rotate livestock away from grazing areas to provide recovery periods for grasses and forbs to regrow.</p>	<p>Prescribed Grazing (528)</p>	<p>Chipping Sparrow</p> <p>Savannah Sparrow</p> <p>Vesper Sparrow (all except East Cascades)</p> <p>Western Meadowlark</p>
	<p>Reduce the potential for grazing impacts on oaks and wildlife.</p>	<p>Prescribed Grazing (528)</p> <p>Structures for Wildlife (649)</p> <p>Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)</p>	
	<p>Allow palatable plants to grow to proper height, and thus restore nutritional reserves and regrown roots, before grazing.</p>	<p>Prescribed Grazing (528)</p>	

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<p><b>Balanced Grazing</b></p> <p><i>(Continued)</i></p>	<p>Ensure grazing pressure from livestock is in balance with supply.</p>	<p>Prescribed Grazing (528)</p>	<p><i>(See prior page)</i></p>
	<p>Meet or exceed the minimum Residual Dry Matter (RDM) standards for annual grasslands/hardwood rangelands in your area.</p>	<p>Prescribed Grazing (528)</p>	
	<p>Refrain from grazing oak recruitment areas during the dormant season for grasses or place temporary enclosures around young oak trees.</p>	<p>Prescribed Grazing (528)</p> <p>Structures for Wildlife (649)</p> <p>Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)</p>	
	<p>To promote healthy habitat for breeding birds, rotate cattle out of woodlands during the breeding season (April 15-July 31) to prevent trampling and ensure sufficient grass cover to conceal nests from predators.</p>	<p>Prescribed Grazing (528)</p>	
	<p>Use fencing to keep cattle away from wildlife-rich stream habitats adjacent to oak woodlands.</p>	<p>Structures for Wildlife (649)</p> <p>Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)</p>	

These guidelines can be applied to prairie, oak savanna, oak chaparral, oak woodland, and mixed oak–conifer habitats. The table provides a concise, planner-focused crosswalk between ecological goals, management actions, NRCS practice codes, and bird species expected to benefit. It includes:

- Desired site-level habitat conditions that represent a healthy oak/prairie ecosystem.
- Practical guidelines for achieving each condition across all oak habitat types.
- Applicable NRCS Practice Codes to support planning and contracting.
- Focal and imperiled bird species likely to respond positively to each action, helping planners link habitat attributes to measurable biological outcomes.