Pacific Northwest Oak Alliance

PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT JOINT VENTURE

Prairie, Oaks, and People: A Resource Brief for Philanthropic Partners

Oak and prairie ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest are nearing a tipping point, with less than 10% of their historic range remaining. These landscapes sustain biodiversity, cultural heritage, and wildfire resilience preparedness, yet they continue to vanish under the pressures of development, fire suppression, and invasive species.

The Prairie, Oaks, and People Investment Strategy offers a five-year strategy with ready-to-implement projects across the Pacific Northwest, totaling $310.9 million. Conservation funding is dwindling, yet the need for action is greater than ever. Private funders and philanthropists have an unprecedented opportunity to lead. Your support can catalyze immediate, high-impact projects, scale innovative approaches, and secure the future of these irreplaceable landscapes.

Why Invest Now?

1. **Filling the Funding Gap**: Federal funding for conservation is shrinking, leaving urgent projects underfunded. Private investment is critical to bridging this gap and ensuring that progress continues.
2. **Catalytic Opportunities:** These projects are fully scoped and ready to implement, ensuring immediate and measurable impact. Your investment can amplify existing commitments and inspire further public and private support.
3. **Changing Environmental Conditions:** Restoring fire-adapted oak and prairie ecosystems reduces wildfire risk, supports water retention, and enhances carbon sequestration, which contributes to disaster mitigation, wildfire risk reduction, and infrastructure protection goals.
4. **Cultural and Economic Value:** Oak and prairie habitats hold deep cultural significance for Indigenous communities and offer recreation, subsistence, and compatible working lands opportunities.
5. **Scaling Innovation:** This plan leverages partnerships across sectors, offering funders a chance to drive collaborative, scalable solutions that set a national model for conservation.
6. **Legacy Building:** As a funder, you can leave a lasting legacy by helping to protect and restore one of the Pacific Northwest's most imperiled and irreplaceable ecosystems, benefiting future generations of people and wildlife.

A Call for Visionary Leadership

The Prairie, Oaks, and People Investment Strategy represents an opportunity for philanthropists and funders to lead bold, transformative change. By investing in this strategy, you will protect vital ecosystems, empower communities, and create a model for effective conservation partnerships. This is more than an environmental initiative—it's a pathway to cultural and ecological strength and a thriving future for the Pacific Northwest.

Investment Priorities and Impact Opportunities

1. Land Protection via Acquisitions and Easements
Investment Opportunity: $102.1 million
Impact: Permanently secure 10,200 acres of oak and prairie habitat through conservation easements and land acquisition, preserving vital ecosystems and ensuring sustainable stewardship practices.
Your Contribution: Help Tribes, land trusts, NGOs, and others protect properties by funding conservation easements or supporting land acquisition projects. Your investment will directly enable communities to conserve critical habitats and balance ecological needs with economic viability.

2. Ecosystem Restoration and Stewardship
Investment Opportunity: $182.4 million
Impact: Restore 60,000 acres through conifer removal, fuels reduction, prescribed fire, understory planting, and invasive species control, leading to increased biodiversity, reduced wildfire risks, and enhanced carbon sequestration.
Your Contribution: Fund hands-on restoration efforts, such as forest health thinning, fuels reduction, invasive species removal, or prescribed fire implementation, or invest in innovative approaches like restoration monitoring technology to ensure long-term success.

3. Community and Capacity Building
Investment Opportunity: $17.2 million
Impact: Develop a skilled restoration workforce, create local jobs, and engage communities in conservation, ensuring a robust restoration supply chain and community support for long-term ecosystem stewardship.
Your Contribution: Create jobs and invest in workforce training programs, partnership capacity, or community outreach initiatives that empower individuals and communities to participate in conservation work, ensuring sustainable outcomes and local economic growth.

4. Stabilize At-Risk Species Populations
Investment Opportunity: $9.2 million
Impact: Deliver targeted recovery efforts for imperiled species, including habitat management and research, leading to increased populations of key species such as Streaked Horned Larks and Fender's Blue Butterflies.
Your Contribution: Fund species-specific recovery projects or support cutting-edge research that develops innovative strategies to protect and restore critical populations.

Support Prairie, Oaks, and People

Your support is critical to realizing this vision. To learn more about funding opportunities, contact us or visit oakalliance.org. Together, we can ensure these landscapes—and the communities and species they sustain—thrive for generations to come.

For more information, visit oakalliance.org/investment-strategy.