Pacific Northwest Oak Alliance

PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT JOINT VENTURE

Prairie, Oaks, and People: A Resource Brief for Conservation Practitioners

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. It also provides the data, priorities, and strategies you need to develop compelling proposals and demonstrate your projects' value to funders and constituencies.

This plan is designed for you. Land protection acreage goals were developed based on the needs identified by land trusts and Tribes across the region. Restoration acreage goals reflect the annual estimates provided by each local oak and prairie partnership. The development of native plant materials is included as part of the overall cost of downlisting species.

What This Plan Offers You

1. A Clear Case for Investment

The plan outlines a $310.9 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. Use these metrics to align your local project goals with regional priorities and illustrate how your work contributes to large-scale outcomes:

- *Habitat and Working Lands Conservation:* Secure 10,200 acres of critical habitat.
- *Restoration and Wildfire Risk Reduction:* Restore 60,000 acres through sound practices.
- *Stabilize At-Risk Species Populations:* Stabilize 23 species by building on past collaborative successes.
- *Increase Capacity and Build Community:* Create 25 dedicated positions and reach over 5,000 landowners.

3. Practical Tools for Fundraising

The plan identifies key co-benefits of oak and prairie conservation. Frame proposals around these outcomes to appeal to funders' interests in climate action, economic development, and community well-being:

- *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.

Leverage the Investment Strategy in Fundraising Efforts

- *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.
- *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.
- *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.
- *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.
- *Access Available Resources:* Visit 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.

Resources for Conservation Practitioners in the Investment Strategy

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

Get Involved with the Pacific Northwest Oak Alliance

Did you know that oak-prairie partnerships now blanket the Pacific Northwest? Visit the Pacific Northwest Oak Alliance website at oakalliance.org to connect with a local partnership coordinator and find resources.