

Meeting of the sub-committee working on the task:

To inform the scope and scale of a landscape-level strategy for Benton County:

2. Benton SWCD At-Large Director Henry Storch, along with Iris Benson, the Institute for Applied Ecology, and Debbie Johnson, will review existing maps and information to make a recommendation on components they believe are important to incorporate in the development of such a strategy (as well as identification of important priority habitats).

In attendance: Heath Keirstead, Henry Storch, Debbie Johnson, Rachel Schwindt, Liz Graham, Carolyn Menke

September 20, 2011 at Institute for Applied Ecology

- I. Discussion of maps already in existence (who has already gone through this process)
 - a. The Nature Conservancy
 - b. Oregon Conservation Strategy
 - c. Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan
 - d. Others
- II. Decision to use the already identified synthesis layer as base
- III. What Criteria to use to determine priority areas
 - a. Areas with potential for conservation
 - b. Quality Criteria
 - c. Goal to increase quantity
 - d. Location relative to other protected areas
 - e. Critical species present
 - f. Whether or not the site is protected already (might influence our strategy for protection)
 - g. Accessibility
 - h. include lands owned privately
 - i. intact native habitats with:
 - i. listed species
 - ii. upland prairies
 - iii. early seral
 - iv. coast range balds
 - v. wetland prairies
 - vi. wetlands
 - vii. uniquely identified spots (special favorites known by our members, other experts)
 - viii. Xerces Society reference spots
 - ix. Areas with high cover of natives
 - x. Areas with high diversity of natives
 - xi. Areas with uncommon/rare species (both listed and unlisted)
 - xii. Unique habitats (larger and smaller patches-size irrelevant)

- xiii. Areas with connectivity to other high quality areas
- xiv. Proximity to other high quality areas
- xv. Areas that could provide stepping stnes
- xvi. Habitat areas for certain species

IV. Next Steps

a. Debbie will put together data from multiple sources

i. Sources include:

- 1. BLMs Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (Diann Morris)**
 - a. Debbie will contact BLM**
- 2. Forest Service LSRs and BRAs (late successional reserves and botanical resource areas)**
 - a. Heath will talk to Cindy McCain**
- 3. Willamette riparian areas (Stan Gregory and Dave Hulse-LiDAR)**
 - a. Debbie will talk to Stan Gergory**
- 4. Watershed Councils**
 - a. Henry will talk to MRWC**
 - b. Heath will talk to Long Tom, Alsea and Luckiamute**
- 5. Rachel will send IAE layers to Debbie**