



Approved November 16, 2021

**Clackamas SWCD Board Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2021**

<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>Directors:</b>	Jeff Becker (Chair), Roger Fantz (Treasurer), Don Guttridge (Secretary) Jim Johnson, Jesse Nelson (Vice Chair), Jan Lee, Joan Zuber
	<b>Associate Directors:</b>	PK Melethil, Anna Rankin
	<b>Directors Emeritus:</b>	Mike Weinberg
	<b>Staff:</b>	Nicole Ahr, Jason Faucera, Tami Guttridge, Lisa Kilders, Clair Klock, Chris Lapp (GM), Sam Leininger, Cathy McQueeney, Jenne Reische, Nathan Tucker
	<b>Partners:</b>	Kim Galland, Natural Resources Conservation Service
	<b>Guest:</b>	
<b>NOT PRESENT:</b>		

**1 – CALL TO ORDER and ACCEPT AGENDA / PUBLIC COMMENT / DIRECTOR REPORTS / MANAGER'S REPORT ON COMMITTEES**

- A. Call to order** – Chair Becker called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 4:03 p.m., October 19, 2021, via “Zoom” on a call originating from the Clackamas SWCD office at 22055 S Beavercreek Rd, Beavercreek, Oregon.

Chair Becker asked if there were changes or additions to the agenda. General Manager (GM) Lapp asked that the timeline be flexible. Both Staff Faucera and Staff Tucker had conflicts and might be late for their presentations.

- B. Public Comment** – No public comments were given.

**C. Director reports** –

- Director Fantz reported he had been fertilizing his trees.
- Director Johnson thanked the Board for its input regarding the Bull Run Treatment Facility being proposed on the Multnomah County/Clackamas County line. The Oregon Board of Agriculture will be meeting with the Portland Water Bureau regarding the project, due to input from neighbors and entities like the conservation district

Director Lee arrived at 4:06 p.m.

- Director Lee reported that she is working on the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting which will be held on November 9, and 10. This will be a virtual meeting. Lee has also been working with other agencies regarding carbon sequestration and will report back to the Board later.
- Associate Director Melethil spoke briefly on his involvement with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) projects, and presented a slide with his background and interpretation of the word's diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Director Nelson arrived at 4:10 p.m.

- Associate Director Rankin gave the Board an update regarding the work of the Pudding River Watershed Council. The council has a large woody debris project on Abiqua Creek that they will be undertaking with the help of Weyerhaeuser, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Marion County, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). This project is scheduled for next summer. Rankin is also working on some pesticide stewardship monitoring for aerial spraying.

Rankin reported on two dam removal projects. The Rock Creek dam removal proposal has been pushed out until April of 2022, and the Scotts Mill Dam project has been stalled again.

Rankin was excited to let the Board know that she has received permission by the City of Silverton to use their water quality testing lab.

- D. Partner reports** – Kim Galland reported to the Board that she had requested a computer that will be made able to District staff for working on United States Department of Agriculture programs. Galland reported that with the application deadline for EQIP funding nearing, she has had quite a few requests for high tunnel and forestry funding. Galland noted she would be seeking out applicants for irrigation as she has a large fund pool for those projects.

Galland noted that her department would be shorthanded as one of their staff is off on paternity leave.

Galland will also be preparing for a quality assurance review in April of 2022. There will be employees from the NRCS state office coming in to review paperwork. This might also be a good time to hold an open house for them.

- E. Manager's report on committees** – GM Lapp reported that the Finance Committee had been keeping in touch by email. The Building Committee had also met by email regarding a walk-through gate. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee met on October 7, 2021, and would report later in the meeting.

## 2 – MINUTES

- A. September 21, 2021, Work Session for the Eagle Creek Community Forest minutes** – The minutes of September 21, 2021, work session were presented to the Board for approval. The Board Secretary has reviewed the minutes.

Directors Guttridge/Fantz moved/seconded to approve the September 21, 2021; Eagle Creek Community Forest Work Session Minutes as submitted. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. **September 21, 2021, Regular Board Meeting minutes** – The minutes of September 21, 2021, Board meeting were presented to the Board for approval. The Board Secretary has reviewed the minutes.

Directors Guttridge/Nelson moved/seconded to approve September 21, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

### 3 – FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. **Review and accept financial reports** – Staff Tucker reviewed the September 2021 financial reports with the Board. The Districts current total assets are 10.4 million, total liabilities are at 6.8 million and the Districts net assets are at 3.2 million. The District is in a good financial position for this time in the fiscal year. Tucker noted that the Department of Environmental Quality loan R22406 used for septic system loans has been closed out and the District will start making payment on this loan in December of 2022. There are up-coming loan payments at the beginning of December for the Conservation Resource Center and the Eagle Creek Community Forest.

Directors Fantz/Zuber moved/seconded to accept the September 2021 financial reports as presented. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

Tucker presented a graph showing the current expenses versus budget for the first quarter of the fiscal year. Directors noted they appreciated the graphics as a quick way to see how the District is doing.

- B. **Disbursements** – Staff Tucker presented the October Disbursements. Reporting first on the Automatic Clearing House payments and then on the disbursements for the District. The October disbursements were numbered 100771 to 100799 with no breaks or voids in the sequence. The checks totaled \$106,717.04, with \$49,618.22 from the Conservation Fund.

Directors Guttridge/Nelson moved/seconded to approve the October 2021 Disbursements as presented. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

### 4 – OTHER FINANCIALS

- A. **National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) dues** – GM Lapp reported he had received the NACD dues statement. The District paid \$775.00 in dues in 2020 and has budgeted up to \$1750.00 for dues this year. Lapp asked the Board what they would like to pay for the 2022 dues to NACD.

Directors Guttridge/Nelson moved/seconded to pay dues of \$775.00 to the National Association of Conservation Districts. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Partner Support Grant review** – Staff McQueeney asked for volunteers to review the current grant application the District has for Watershed Council and Farmers Market support grants. The last grant cycle for the Watershed Councils was for 3-years, and the District was unable to fulfill all the funding. Board Directors Becker, Guttridge and Zuber plus Associate Director Rankin volunteered to help with the review of the application. Staff McQueeney will contact them with a time and date to meet.

#### **Staff Presentation – Nicole Ahr – Oak Habitat Mapping Project**

Staff Ahr thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak with them about the Oak Mapping Project. Ahr noted that in her PowerPoint presentation many of the slides had been provided by the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District. Data for the oak mapping was collected by Oak Quest in the Portland area, and by volunteers collecting aerial photos in Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania Counties. The data was put together by Biohabitats, including maps showing where individual oaks and pockets of oaks are located, as well as habitat continuity which is important for wildlife. (Please see the PowerPoint slides that are included as a part of these minutes). Ahr explained the maps and noted the mapping had been used for the Districts oak mailings this year and will be used for strategic and regional planning in years to come. The District is currently working on 17 oak projects.

Directors thanked Ahr for the presentation, noting that the Oregon Agricultural Trust might be interested in the mapping for determining easements. Ahr was encouraged to consider making this presentation to other programs.

### **5 – PROJECTS, PROGRAMS**

- A. Resolution 2021-006 establishing the date of the annual meeting** – GM Lapp presented Resolution 2021-006 for the Boards approval to establish the date of the annual meeting of the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

Directors Guttridge/Fantz moved/seconded to adopt Resolution 2021-006 to establish the date of the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District on December 21, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Eagle Creek Community Forest (ECCF) follow-up discussion** – Staff Faucera reported to the Board that he had researched the decision-making process regarding the Advisory Committee to the ECCF. The Board is the landowner and therefore decisions regarding the use and expenditure of funds rest with the Board.

The Board discussed whether to engage the Advisory Committee in the review of the management plan, whether to have separate or integrated work sessions when the District is ready to do so. There is a need to make sure stake holders are engaged and feel their input is important. Discussions need to include climate resiliency and community inclusion. Also, the District needs to define the community they will be reaching out to and decide on actions that need to be taken immediately and formulate the long-term goals. There was discussion whether to hold a work session before the next Board meeting and whether to engage the Advisory Committee on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. Staff Faucera and GM Lapp will communicate with the Board regarding possible work sessions.

- C. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee update** – Staff McQueeney reported that the DEI Committee had met on October 7, 2021. It was decided at that meeting to have DEI components in each Board meeting. McQueeney presented a 3-minute video regarding preferred pronouns, and why they are important. It was noted the preferred pronouns are about respecting each other. The link is being sent out to the Board and staff as it did not play well over the “Zoom” link.

## 6 – PERSONNEL

- A. **Computer Security and Acceptable Use Policy** – GM Lapp presented Policy # P-2021-101 to the Board for approval. The policy is a best management practice from Special Districts Insurance Services and protects the staff and District regarding the use of District computers. This policy will be reviewed by the District’s computer management contractor and may be updated later.

Directors Guttridge/Zuber moved/seconded to adopt Policy # P-2021-101 as presented to establish a Computer Security and Acceptable Use Policy. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. **Conservation Specialist Selection** – GM Lapp reported to the Board that the recruitment for the new Conservation Specialist has been completed, and the position has been offered to Anna Beebe. Beebe is a graduate of the University of Washington and has a master’s degree in environmental science with an emphasis on soil sciences. Beebe worked for the King Conservation District for the past year and will be starting work for Clackamas SWCD on November 15, 2021.

## 7 – BOARD AND MANAGER REPORTS

- A. **Response to Portland Water Bureau letter** – GM Lapp reported that the Portland Water Bureau had responded to the District letter regarding the proposed water treatment plant that will impact agricultural lands in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. Lapp asked the Board if they were in favor of inviting a representative of the Portland Water Bureau to come speak to the Board regarding the project. Directors discussed the possibility and decided to wait and see how the issue moves forward before commenting further. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is getting involved, and there will be more information available later.

*Director Lee left the meeting at 5:59 p.m.*

### B. Management Reports –

- Staff Reische reported that the planning department continues to field many technical assistant requests. Most requests are currently about oak, and mud/manure management. There are increasing requests from the urban area. Reische noted that she is looking forward to getting the new planner in place.

The planning staff will participate in a training with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for monitoring properties enrolled in the wildlife tax program. Bringing the monitoring up to date will open the ability to enroll new properties in the program. This is important for the work the District is doing on Oak Conservation Investment Strategies.

Reische also reported on a hedgerow project. Please see Reische's report which is a part of these minutes.

- Staff Kilders reported that she was excited about a new publication the outreach department put together called "Pasture Bullies". The hand-out is about plants that are toxic to animals and has good information on pasture and soil management.

The District has three videos about mud and manure management, pasture management, and heavy use areas that will be playing on the Clackamas Government Channel.

Kilders also mentioned that staff hope to conduct water sampling on the Molalla River this week. And the Oregon City Farmers Market is open through the end of October.

Staff Faucera and McQueeney are working on strategic planning for the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN). OCEAN has hired two employees to help with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) training for conservation district employees and planning for the CONNECT conference. Please see Kilders brief which is a part of these minutes.

- Staff Faucera reported that he was partnering with Staff Kilders and Staff Eden to get water sampling started on the Molalla River as a part of the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI).

Planners will be taking training with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to monitor properties that are currently enrolled in the tax incentive programs with ODFW.

Faucera is also involved in working on planning for the Eagle Creek Community Forest.

Faucera had hoped to schedule a hearing with the Agriculture and Environmental Committee of the State legislature but was told that the legislature had a full schedule and would probably not schedule a meeting until the spring session.

Faucera stated there were no outstanding issues with the Conservation Resource Center building at this time. Faucera noted that there is a need to have discussions regarding deferred maintenance on the building and budgeting for this maintenance.

- Staff Leininger reported that the weed of the month is Himalayan Blackberry.

Leininger noted that a recent article regarding Tree of Heaven has resulted in 22 technical assistance calls, including one from the City of Milwaukie Code Enforcement officer. Tree of Heaven is a vector for Lantern Fly, which is an invasive that does extensive damage to fruit crops. The WeedWise staff has posted best management practice information on the website for Tree of Heaven control.

The 4-county Cooperative Weed Management Agencies had a virtual field day, created in StoryMap by WeedWise staff.

The WeedWise staff is finishing up their field season and is shifting over to reporting and planning that needs to be done. Please see Staff Leininger's briefing memo which is a part of these minutes.

- Director Zuber asked if it was legal for nurseries to be selling eucalyptus trees. Staff Leininger noted that it was not a restricted plant, so yes, it is legal.

## **8 – PROPERTY, PLANNING**

A. No items to report.

## **9 – OTHER REPORTS**

- Staff Tucker reported that the audit is underway, and he has sent requested data to the auditor. Auditor Richard Winkel may wish to speak to some of the Board members at a later date.
- Chair Becker said he would be in the office on Thursday to sign the resolution and checks.

## **ADJOURN AND NEXT MEETING**

- The next regular meeting will be on November 16 at 4:00 p.m.
- There being no further business, Chair Becker adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami L. Guttridge  
Office Administrator



October 19, 2021

## BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE CLACKAMAS SWCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Technical Assistance Site Visits Full Steam Ahead

The conservation planning team has seen a steady flow of technical assistance requests over the past year. Factors like the great work of our outreach team, landowners being home more due to the pandemic and therefore more interested in addressing problems, and the continued trend of folks moving “out into the country” and wanting help managing their new properties are likely attributing to the numerous calls we receive each week.

Sometimes we refer folks to other agencies or groups, but most of the time requests for technical help result in a visit to the site. Recently, planners have had a noticeable uptick in site visit numbers. To give a sense of quantity, I polled the conservation planners on their site visits since September 1. In the past month and a half, the planners have gone on approximately 59 site visits! We’ve also observed trends in the types of assistance requested.

Of the 59 site visits, planners went on eleven that were directly related to equine property management challenges. Typically, these visits consist of a pasture condition assessment and management tips, especially related to weeds or



Equine property needing help.

productivity. Best methods for managing mud and manure are additional conservation topics many of our equine folks are interested in learning more about.

Planners had three site visits with landowners that recently purchased a new rural property. These initial visits are always interesting, and the planners appreciate getting on out on these early-on in ownership. With new landowners the planners listen to property goals, and then identify opportunities, and generally help the landowners get started off in a positive direction with land management.



Our recent Oak CIS outreach resulted in twelve visits with

landowners that are interested in improving oak habitat on their properties as well as visits to existing oaks projects. Most of these site visits have taken place in the Molalla, Mulino, and Canby, but planners have also been visiting properties in other oak rich areas of the county like Eagle Creek and Wilsonville.

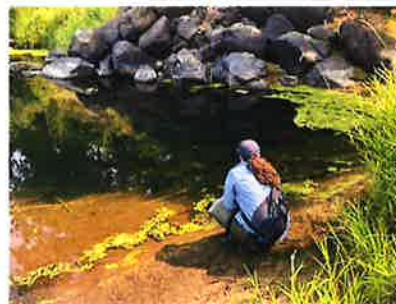


Oregon White Oak habitat site visit.



Drew went on 16 CREP related site visits since the beginning of September, seven of which were in Clackamas County. In addition to CREP, the other planners attended six riparian related site visits outside of the CREP, as some properties are not a good fit for the Federal program.

Clair Klock has been getting out in the field too with four site visits last month with landowners interested in rainwater harvesting information. We're happy to have this expertise in house!



Drew checking out a Pudding River site.

### Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program Pilot

The planning team is also gearing up to start a pilot monitoring program for the Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program (WHCMP) with help from ODFW staff. WHCMP is a cooperative effort involving state and local governments and other partners, like SWCDs, to help private landowners voluntarily conserve native wildlife habitat and to preserve or improve the composition of habitat for native wildlife species. The Oregon Legislature created the habitat program to offer an incentive for private landowners who want to provide wildlife habitat on their properties instead of, or in addition to, farming or growing timber. Under the program, enrolled land receives a wildlife habitat special assessment, where property taxes are assessed at the value that would apply if the land were being farmed or used for forestry. In Clackamas County WHCMP provides an important tool for landowners who wish to keep and protect native habitats that are scarce and have special ecological significance - like oak woodlands and savannas.

Lack of funding for ODFW to administer the program has been a significant barrier. One resulting problem has been a lack of resources to monitor existing WHCMP projects. The pilot monitoring program will help address that and provide a path forward to get the WHCMP program back up and running in Clackamas County. Planners and ODFW staff will be meeting at one of our existing oak WHCMP sites later this month in order for our staff to learn the new monitoring protocol. District planners will then work together to address the monitoring backlog, which is the next step in successful reinstatement of the program here. Since many hands make light work, the planning team is confident we can address the monitoring backlog without having a detrimental impact on our other workload.



### New Dollars on the Ground (DOG) Hedgerow Project

Planner Scott Eden is working to start a new project with the owners of a seven-acre small farm in Damascus. The landowners purchased their farm in 2017 and had their first site visit with Scott shortly thereafter. An open hayfield on site was becoming weedy with blackberry, meadow knapweed and other area invasive weeds due to previous neglect. While the landowners decided on the livestock they were going to raise, and the SWCD was able to provide guidance on stocking rates, the benefits of rotational grazing, and mud and manure management tips. Since 2017, they have experimented with poultry, pigs, cattle, and horses on the property. They are now developing a track paddock system for two horses and grazing rotations for seasonal cattle production. They are working at keeping forage health and minimizing mud and manure problems by implementing a paddock based rotational grazing system, and also producing hay.

The owners were also especially interested in improving wildlife habitat by adding pollinator friendly tree and shrub plantings. The main goals of the hedgerow planting will be to increase native habitat diversity, provide food sources for local pollinators, and provide privacy screens on selected property borders. The property has a steep hillside adjacent to Noyer Creek with good overstory riparian vegetation. The remainder of the property was mainly an open field with some trees on the edges and a large residential property and farm headquarters area. Scott suggested that if the south property boundary were planted along the main road, it would improve wildlife connectivity on the property and while also providing a visual and sound barrier. Not only are hedgerows good for increased habitat and pollinator benefit, but they can also help outcompete weeds such as blackberry encroachment on field margins. Because the owners are still learning their livestock system, they are putting in the fences and rotations themselves with general advice from Scott. For the tree and shrub planting project, they decided to move forward with a planting plan developed with District assistance and will be doing site prep and planting this year and next year.



Location of new hedgerow project.



# The Latest from the Education and Outreach Program October 2021

## Web Posts

Since last we met, we have posted four articles on our website:

- [October Invasive Weed of the Month: Himalayan Blackberry](#)
- [Got Manure? Put a Cover on It!](#)
- [Is Your Land Going Downstream?](#)
- [Source Water Protection Week: September 26 – October 2](#)



October Invasive Weed of the Month: Himalayan Blackberry

## Newest Addition to Our Outreach Library


Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District

# PASTURE BULLIES

## Plants that are Toxic to Horses and Livestock

Don't let your horses and livestock consume toxic plants! Invasive weeds and non-pasture plants can seriously harm or kill your animals and you can help prevent it!

Watch for the following plants in and around your pasture or in imported hay. The quantity consumed will determine the toxicity to your animals. This is not an all inclusive list. If you have an animal that you believe has been poisoned, contact a veterinarian immediately.



Plant name	Comments
Blackberry Fern (Pteridium aquilinum)	Toxic to Equines, Cattle, Sheep, Chickens, possibly Alpacas/Llamas.
Chicory (Cichorium intybus)	Toxic to Equines, Cattle. (Others may not consume it but seeds can lodge in cyathostomiasis.)
Buttercup/Creeping buttercup (Ranunculus spp)	Toxic to Equines, Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Alpacas, Llamas, Chickens. Usually avoided unless poor pasture conditions leave animals no other choice.
Chickweedy (Frustr. virginiana)	Toxic to Sheep, Cattle and Horses. All plant parts are potentially toxic but mostly young leaves and seeds. Found along fence rows.
Common Groundsel (Senecio vulgaris)	Toxic to Equines, Cattle, possibly Alpacas and Llamas. Sheep and Goats are resistant. Likely found in hay.
Common St. Johnswort (Hypericum perforatum)	Toxic to Equines, Cattle, Sheep, Alpacas, Llamas, Chickens. Toxicity to goats is debated. Most toxic is spring in severely depleted pastures with poor forage. Also found in hay.
Horseshoe (Equisetum spp)	Toxic to Equines, Chickens in particular; rarely for Cattle, Sheep, Goats, possibly Alpacas/Llamas. May be more toxic when dried than fresh.
Larkspur (Delphinium spp)	Toxic to Equines, other animals. Young shoots and seeds are toxic. Toxicity remains even after dry.
Lupine (Lupinus spp)	Toxic to Equines, Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Alpacas, Llamas, Chickens. All parts, including seed pods are toxic and dried and fragmented.

The key to avoiding plant toxicity is to create an environment where toxic plants are not able to thrive and spread. Developing a land management system using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can reduce and control weeds.

Part of IPM is managing pastures for healthy soil and high-quality forage. Invasive weeds have a hard time competing with vigorous, healthy plants.

- Allow grasses to recover after grazing and never graze below 3" before moving animals to another pasture paddock.

Contact the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District for help with pasture management and invasive weed control. 503-210-6000 or [planning@conservationdistrict.org](mailto:planning@conservationdistrict.org)

**Pasture Bullies** is the latest addition to our arsenal of conservation publications. This one uses the serious topic of poisonous plants that can harm horses and livestock as a hook to get attention.

The rest of the publication talks about pasture management and integrated pest management. Healthy, well-managed pastures do not support noxious weeds!

Thanks to the Conservation Planners and WeedWise staff for their patient input to this handout.

This is the first in a series of publications that provide additional information for viewers of our pasture management, heavy use area, and manure management videos completed in June.

## Video Training for Outreach Department

Clackamas outreach staff joined outreach staff from East Multnomah, West Multnomah, Tualatin, Marion, and Yamhill SWCDs for a two-day training sponsored by Tualatin SWCD. The topic was using social media, plus video creation and editing which is a hot topic for us with current COVID restrictions.

This group of Districts meets quarterly to share experiences, outreach tools, ideas, and to plan events. Members have come and gone, but this group has existed for 10 years!

## OCEAN Strategic Planning Session

Staff Faucera and McQueeney participated in a two-day, facilitator-led strategic planning session for the Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network (OCEAN) on October 4th and 5th. OCEAN now has a new contract administrator to help oversee the many administrative tasks necessary to the organization. The organization also has a new deliverables contractor. This person helps develop, coordinate, and provide training for USDA NRCS planner certification to SWCD and Watershed Council employees in Oregon who participate in the implementation of USDA Farm Services Administration Programs.

## Molalla National Water Quality Initiative Project Outreach



The [Molalla River Drinking Water Project](#) funded by a National Water Quality Initiative Grant was an effort to better understand issues affecting drinking water quality for approximately 26,000 people whose drinking water is drawn directly from the Molalla River. The assessment and source water protection plan are now complete.

The next step is to take action on the identified threats to the drinking water source, the Molalla River. The District plans to work on erosion that causes turbidity in the river, a threat that falls within the District's wheelhouse.

The Molalla Watershed is large. So to prioritize where to begin our outreach we plan to start on the streams that contribute the most sediment to the Molalla River. To that end, staff is organizing turbidity sampling when we have enough rain to capture significant runoff.

So if you see some wet people grabbing water samples at the mouth of Molalla River tributaries, it will probably be us!

## Small Farm Business School

[Small Farm Business School](#) is a 1-day, 3-session webinar on November 10, 2021, focusing on business topics for small-scale farmers. Registration cost is \$20, but full scholarships for Oregon Veteran farmers and Black, Indigenous, and other farmers of color are available with the support of East and West Multnomah SWCDs and other sponsors.

Topics include:

- What You Need to Know About Taxes When Starting a Farm Business  
Speaker: Winona Dorris, CFO 4 NONPROFITS
- Writing a Farm Business Plan  
Speaker: Rowan Steele, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
- Deep Dive into Farmland Leasing  
Speaker: Greg Malinowski, Malinowski Farms



## Farmers Market Update

All of the Clackamas County Farmers Markets have drawn to a close for 2021 except the Oregon City Year-Round Farmers Market, which extends its summer market until October 30.



Continued COVID restrictions caused some markets to repurpose the District support funds. Some were used to deliver programs, such as the Young Entrepreneurs program at the Molalla Farmers Market. Others are holding onto the funds to deliver education programs in the 2022 season. POP Club activities, in most instances, were limited to protect children from the virus.

The Molalla Farmers Market held an end-of-season award ceremony for their young entrepreneurs and cited the District as an ongoing and valued supporter of the market. Cathy was present to represent the District.

**Have a Hauntingly  
Good Month!**





October 13, 2021

## BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE CLACKAMAS SWCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **RE: WeedWise Program Update**

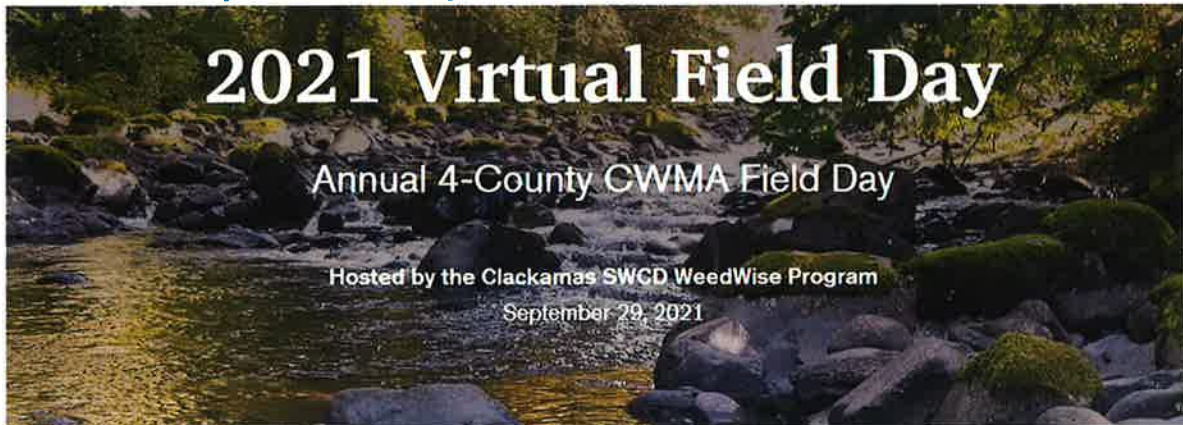
#### **Weed of the Month: Himalayan Blackberry**



This month the WeedWise program is highlighting [Himalayan blackberry as our weed of the month](#). Himalayan blackberry is one of our most impactful noxious weeds in Oregon. An [economic analysis conducted by the Oregon Department of Agriculture](#) found a \$40 million reduction in personal income to Oregonians from Himalayan blackberry. If left untreated impacts from Himalayan blackberry is estimated to result in losses of more than \$260 million annually.

The introduction of Himalayan blackberry has an [interesting history](#). Purportedly the product of famed plant breeder Luther Burbank, Himalayan blackberry has escaped cultivation to take over much of western Oregon and Washington.

October is a great time to control blackberry. Fruit production has dropped off and as plants are starting to reallocate resources down into their roots. Control of blackberry at this time of the year is not only the most effective, but it also minimizes potential impacts to birds posed by treatment activities. Be sure to check out our [Best Management Practices](#) to learn more about control of this important noxious weed.



Each year, our CWMA's host annual field days. The field days are a much-anticipated opportunity for practitioners to come together at field sites across the region to share their knowledge and experiences in a real-world context with each other.

In 2020, Field Day was scheduled to occur in Clackamas County. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 Field Day was canceled last year. In 2021, we had hoped to resume Field Day. The WeedWise staff had been planning field day activities and was in discussions with several partner organizations in Clackamas County to host a field day. Unfortunately, due to the delta surge our plans for an in-person field day were once again thwarted.

In response, the WeedWise Program staff adapted to the situation and pivoted to a virtual, self-guided Field Day. The WeedWise staff filmed and edited several videos highlighting District and partner-led work at several locations across the county. Partners involved in the highlighted work included the Bureau of Land Management, Bonneville Power Administration, Clackamas County, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Green Banks LLC, J Franco Restoration, Metro, Mosaic Ecology, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Transportation, Portland Water Bureau, Sound Native Plants, the United States Forest Service, and Willamette Valley Tree Clearing, Inc.

These videos were incorporated with photos, maps, and supporting information into an ArcGIS Story Map. Lindsey took the lead in developing our Field Day Story Map, while the entire WeedWise team came together to provide the necessary content, videos, maps, and editing.

Even though we would have preferred being in the field and sharing with others face-to-face. We are pleased with the outcome of our efforts. Please *join us* by participating in this year's [4-County CWMA Virtual Field Day!](#)

## Knotweed Season Wrapping Up



The WeedWise program has been busy over the last few months treating invasive knotweeds at various locations across the Clackamas County. Optimal treatment for the invasive knotweeds occurs in the fall when plants are reabsorbing nutrients from above ground growth and translocating them back down into their roots systems.

To take advantage of this biological characteristic we limit knotweed control efforts during this narrow window to improve treatment results. This season has once again proven to be challenging due to ongoing funding limitations, especially in the Sandy, Molalla, and Lower Willamette subbasins.

Despite the challenges this year, WeedWise staff and contractors have completed **195 knotweed treatments** so far this season. With a few more weeks left in the season, we are still hoping to add to this total! Many thanks to Lindsey, Courtney, Justin, and our contracted crews for all their efforts this season!

## Tree-of-Heaven Doesn't live up to its Name



If you start looking around Clackamas County, it won't take you long to find the invasive tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). This state-listed noxious weed is increasingly more common in many of our urban areas where it flourishes.

Tree-of-heaven seems right at home growing in alleys, roadsides, railways, vacant lots, that crack in the sidewalk. Very large trees can also be found growing prominently in many yards, where these trees were intentionally planted. Unfortunately, these older, larger trees can reach heights up to 80 feet in height and can spread seed for blocks around.

In recent weeks, we have received many calls, emails, and hotline reports following a [recent news story about tree-of-heaven](#). This news report documents the trials of a local resident, as he struggles to deal with a tree on his property line that is slowly destroying his home's foundation.

The WeedWise program has been working to respond to the flood of requests of technical assistance. We have highlighted tree-of-heaven on our website and social media accounts to direct people to important information. We have also been reminding residents about the weed wrenches we have available in our WeedWise [equipment library](#) to help safely remove smaller trees.

For folks with larger trees, we have published a new [Tree-of-heaven Best Management Practices](#) (BMP) to assist Clackamas County residents through the management process.

### End of Season Weed Control efforts



The shift toward cooler, wetter weather and the first frost of the season is signaling the rapidly approaching end to our field season. The WeedWise team has been scrambling to finish end-of-season weed control activities and are beginning to launch into our reporting and planning season.

Even though the weather is turning, that past month has been very active. In the last 30 days the WeedWise program has treated populations of knotweed, pokeweed, mouse-ear hawkweed, false brome, Canada thistle, Scotch broom, policeman's helmet, garlic mustard, yellow-flag iris, and puncturevine, among others. In total the WeedWise program has logged **231 new weed observations** and carried out **177 new weed treatments** totaling over **101 net acres**. Nice work WeedWise Team!



## BLM and Mt Hood National Forest Reporting



The end of the federal year brings on our annual reporting to our federal partners. This month WeedWise staff have begun working on reviewing and preparing our annual reports for worked carried out on Forest service and BLM lands.

Our efforts on the Mt Hood National Forest have been undertaken with support for the Forest Service through our Cooperative Agreement, with resources sourced from Retained Receipts, Invasive Species, and Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) funding. These resources are allowing us to treat many priority noxious weeds and prevent their continued spread both on and off the forest.

The Mt Hood National Forest has been a strong supporter of our work in the Sandy and Clackamas Basins. Specific project work in these areas have focused on the Lolo Pass hawkweed control efforts, the Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership work, and Riverside Fire treatments.

Our work with BLM has focused primarily within the Sandy and Molalla Subbasins. Funding from BLM has been sourced through a Partnership agreement, Title II (RAC) funding agreement, and a Beachie Creek Fire Emergency Stabilization funding agreement.

Courtney has been working with BLM on policeman's helmet, knotweed, and false brome work in the Sandy subbasin, while Justin has been spearheading our fire-related weed control efforts in the Molalla subbasin.

## Cooperative Weed Management Areas



### *Columbia Gorge CWMA*

The Columbia Gorge CWMA has been continuing to plan implementation of a small grant program to utilize a surplus of Columbia Gorge CWMA resources. The CWMA is looking to reinvest these resources into worthy project funding for CWMA partners, and Steering Committee has been discussing initiating a limited duration small grant program to put these resources to good use, and to bolster activities within the Columbia Gorge CWMA boundary.

To support this effort, we have recently developed a [Project Funding Survey](#) to gather feedback from our member organizations. The information provided will be used by the Steering Committee to make meaningful decisions about how best to move forward with this new initiative. The project funding survey will be a prominent topic of discussion at our upcoming General Meeting and Committee Meetings on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Columbia Gorge CWMA is also kicking off reporting season. Courtney is beginning the process of accepting submissions, for inclusion in the final report.

### *4-County CWMA*

The 4-County CWMA recently held a general meeting hosted by our partners at Tualatin SWCD. The general meeting included updates from Tualatin's weed control program, biological control agents from ODA, invasive animals from ODFW, aquatic invasive plants from PSU, and presentation from ODA Pesticide Division about drift management under various field conditions. The meeting was well-attended.

The Steering Committee has also been busy working on moving forward with a website redesign for the 4-County CWMA. This process has been stymied due to COVID but is slowly getting back on track. The Steering Committee has identified and approved a 1 year timeline for project roll out and will be working on this over the coming months.

The Education and Outreach Committee has spent time planning the upcoming Pull Together. Due to COVID-19 surge from the delta variant, the event will be help remotely. Cathy, Sam, and Courtney have

all be involved in this planning process. IN light of the virtual format, we are looking forward to an event that is shorter in duration and more focused on 4-County CWMA focused activities.

The Technical Committee discussed a conversion of our treatment calendar into a digital format in conjunction with our partners at Western Invasives Network. The group is also working on submitting several noxious weed nominations starting with three invasive *Impatiens* species.

The Mapping and Data committee recently secured a ArcGIS Online account to assist with data sharing and information tracking. This is a significant addition to the CWMA and will hopefully improve coordination amongst our diverse member organizations.

As noted previously, the Virtual Field Day created by the WeedWise program was distributed to our the 4-County CWMA partners. The reception we have received from our member organizations has been great. It was nice to know that our efforts were appreciated.



# Oak and Prairie Working Group Oak Habitat Mapping

October 19, 2021

Nicole Ahr

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board Meeting

# Mapping Prioritization Effort

- Oakquest data
- Strategic Action Plan
  - Identify high value oak conservation opportunities in both rural and urban landscapes and prioritize those opportunities
- Subgroup of OPWG partners hired Biohabitats
- Methods
  - Compile existing data
  - Literature review to understand key attributes
  - Create polygons at 2 scales
  - Score polygons
  - Connect highest scoring polygons

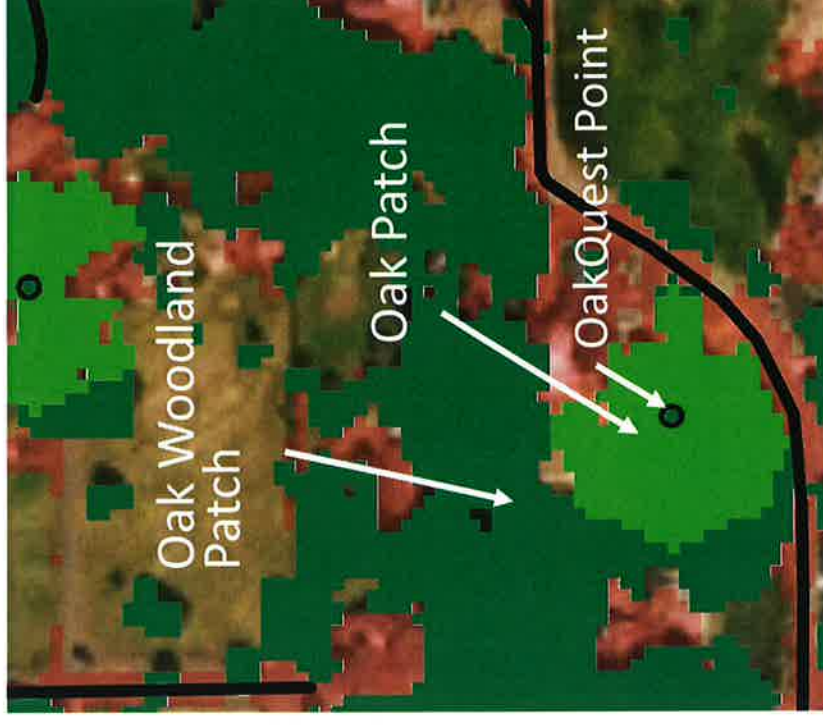


Thank you to  
our many  
partners!

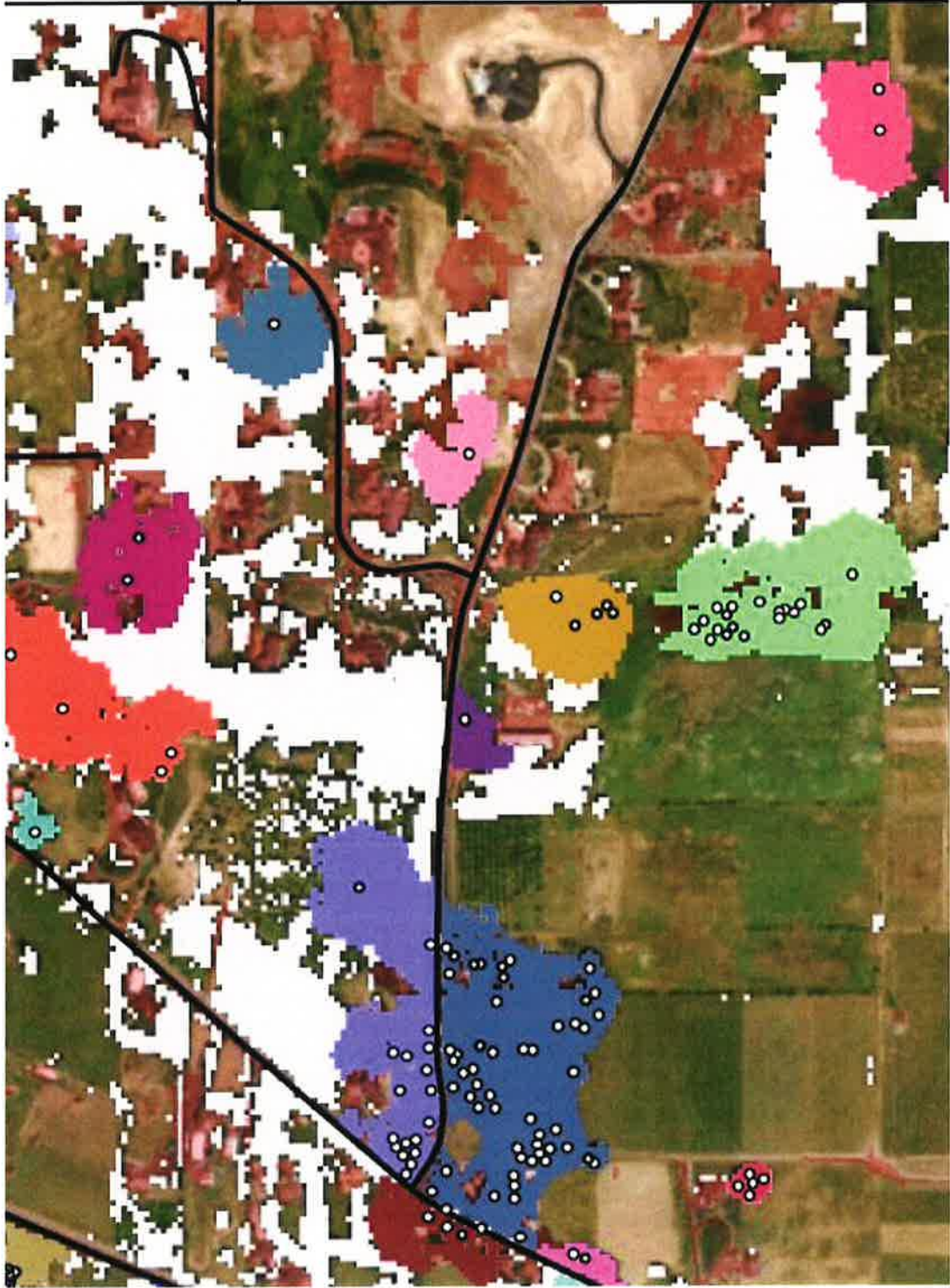


## Create Polygons at 2 Scales

- Oak Patches (light green)
  - 30' radius for OakQuest data, trimmed to landcover=oak canopy
  - Oak points <118' from each other; no roads, paving, or buildings
- Oak Woodland Patches (dark green)
  - Contiguous woodland  $\leq 164'$  from OakQuest points
  - Woodland = 30% canopy/acre



# 4. Oak Woodland Example- Rural



○ Oak Quest Points



Oak Canopy



Woodland without Oak



Street Centerlines



Developed/  
Impervious  
Surface Landcover



Oak Woodland Patches  
(different tones = separate patches)



# Score Polygons

- Patch Size (based on species territory and relative size in the region)
- Patch Composition- Amount of oak canopy
- Patch Context- Edge Condition
- Local Connectivity- % area of oak woodland within 2km

Patches scored between 100-920

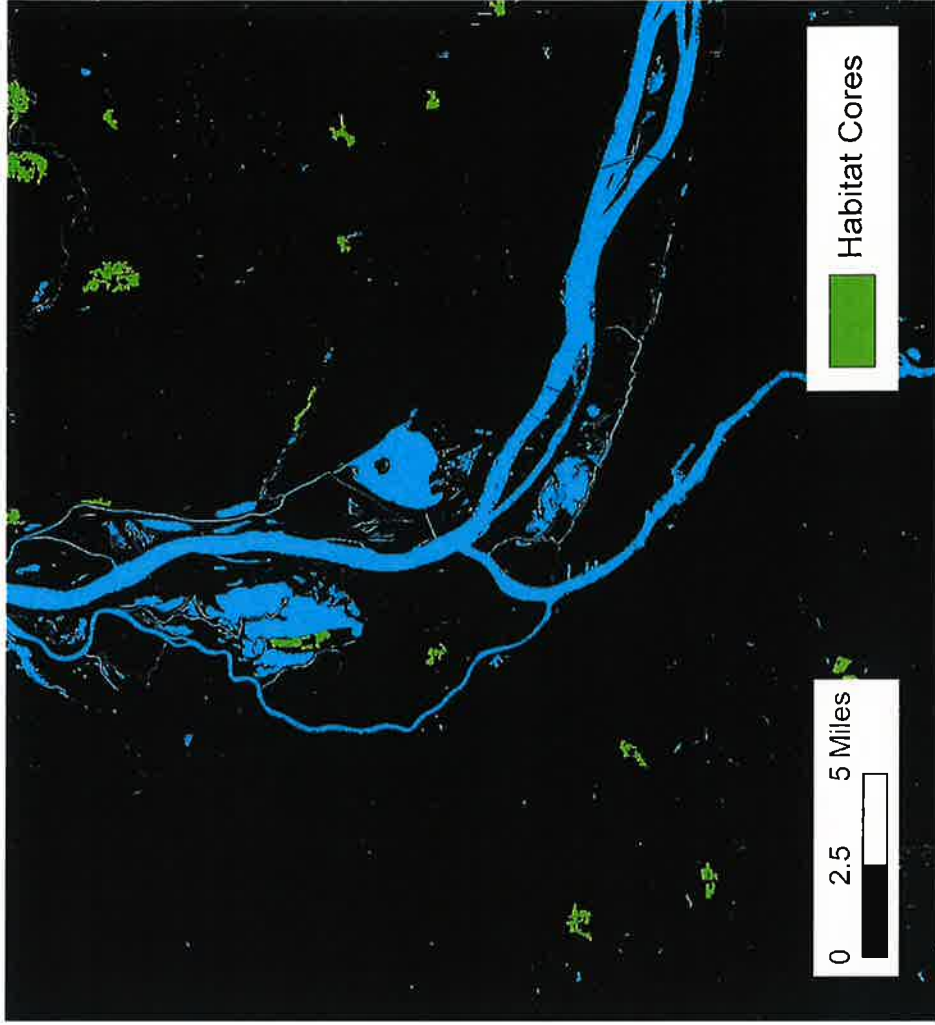
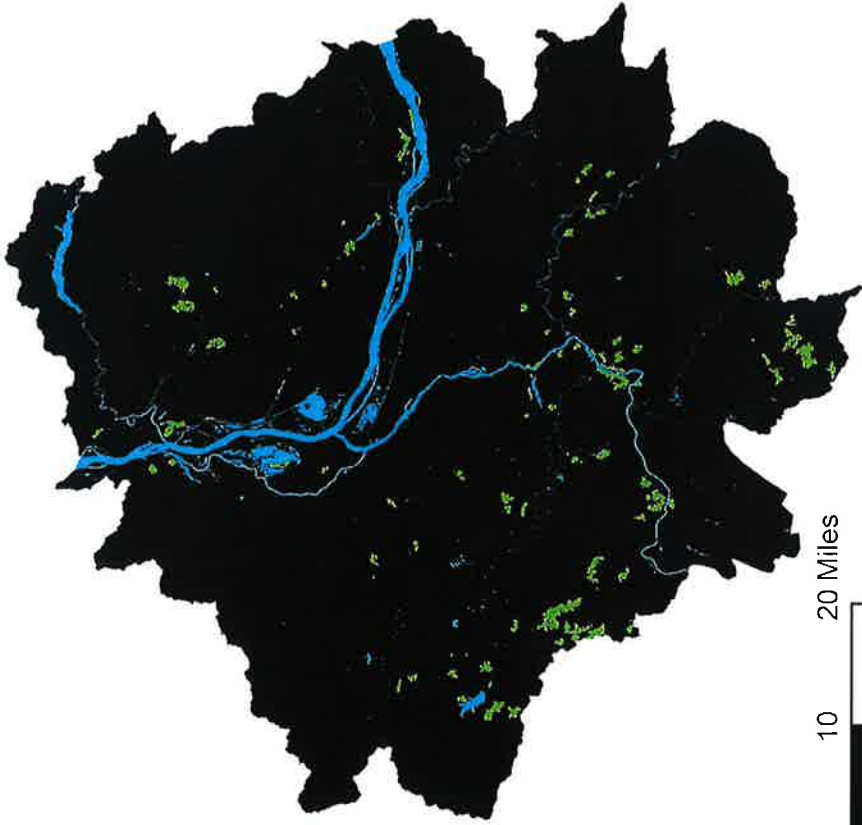
“binned” into 20 groups based on Jenks Natural Break Classification

Top 4 bins = Habitat Cores (scores above 666)

## Score Polygons- additions/tweaks

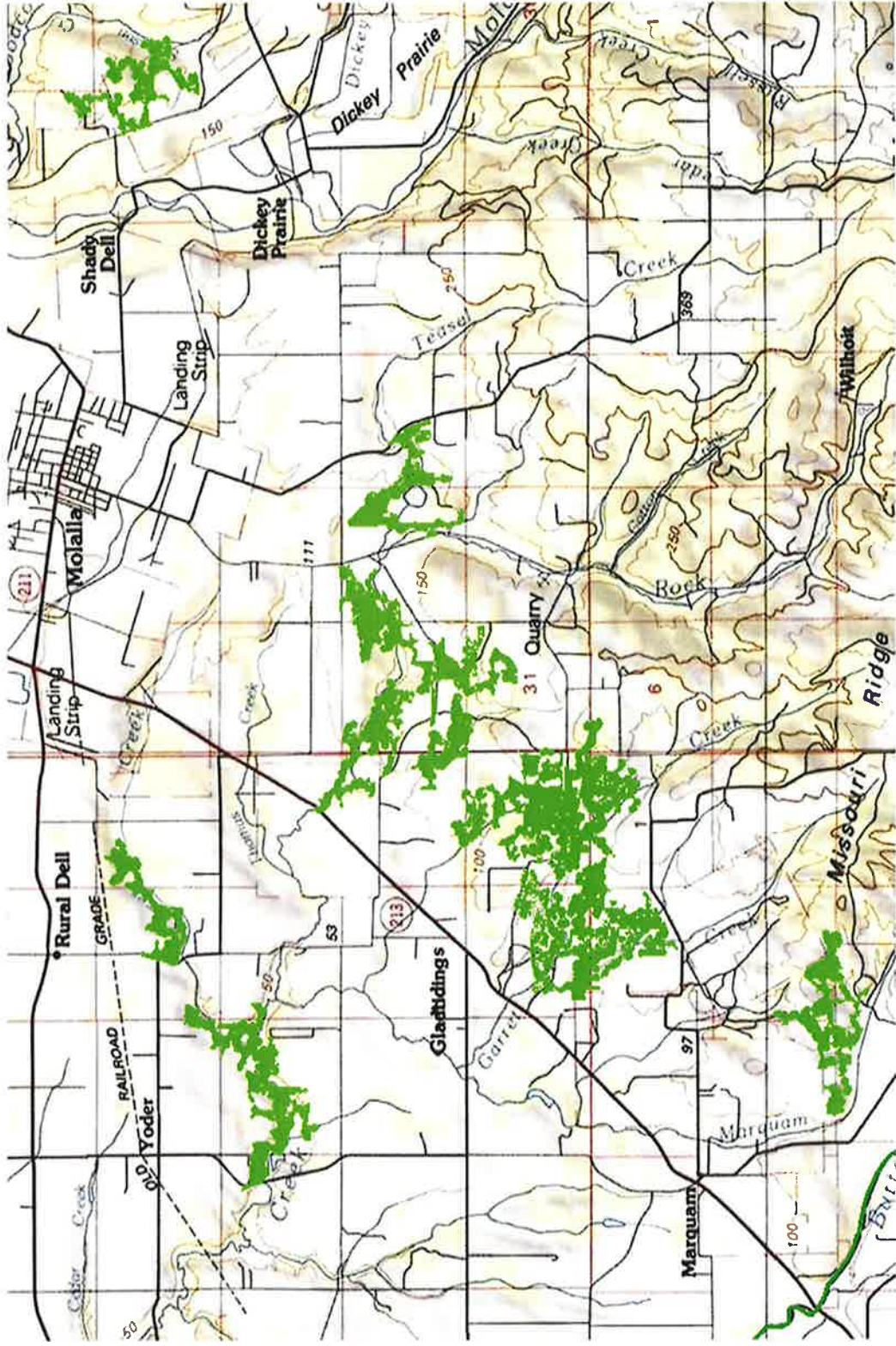
- Oak Woodland Patches > 100 acres added
- Expert opinion from the OPWG team
- **Final Habitat Core count = 110 (30 of which were urban)**
  - 39 Habitat Cores in Clackamas County (35% of the cores)
    - 25 Rural Cores
    - 14 Urban Cores (almost 50% of the urban cores)

# Habitat Cores



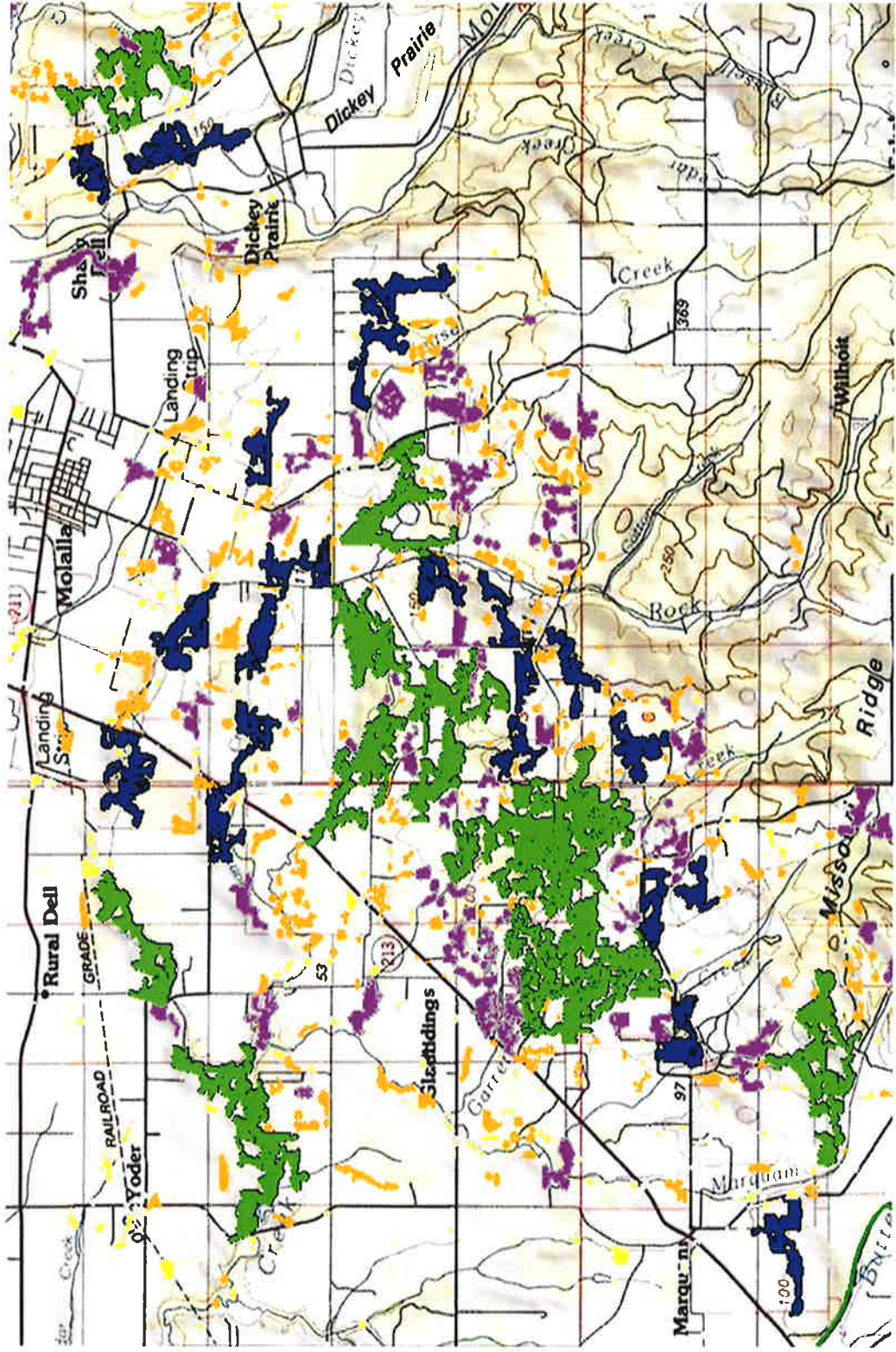
## Clackamas County Rural Habitat Cores - 25

- Newberg/Ladd Hill – 2
- Wilsonville/Coffee Lake Wetlands
- Oregon City/South End Rd/99E corridor
- Oregon City/Beaver Creek/Parrot Creek – 3
- Oregon City/Holcomb Creek
- West Linn/Peach Cove/Willamette River/Pete's Mtn Complex
- Estacada/Clackamas River/Springwater - 3
- Bonnie Lure State Park - 1
- Eagle Creek/Currin Rd/Hwy 211/Goose Creek - 3
- Yoder/Kaiser Creek - 2
- Meadowbrook/Four Corners
- Dickey Prairie/Fernwood Rd
- Molalla/Marquam/Rock Creek/Wildcat Rd – 4
- Marquam Creek/Missouri Ridge



Connectivity\_Cores

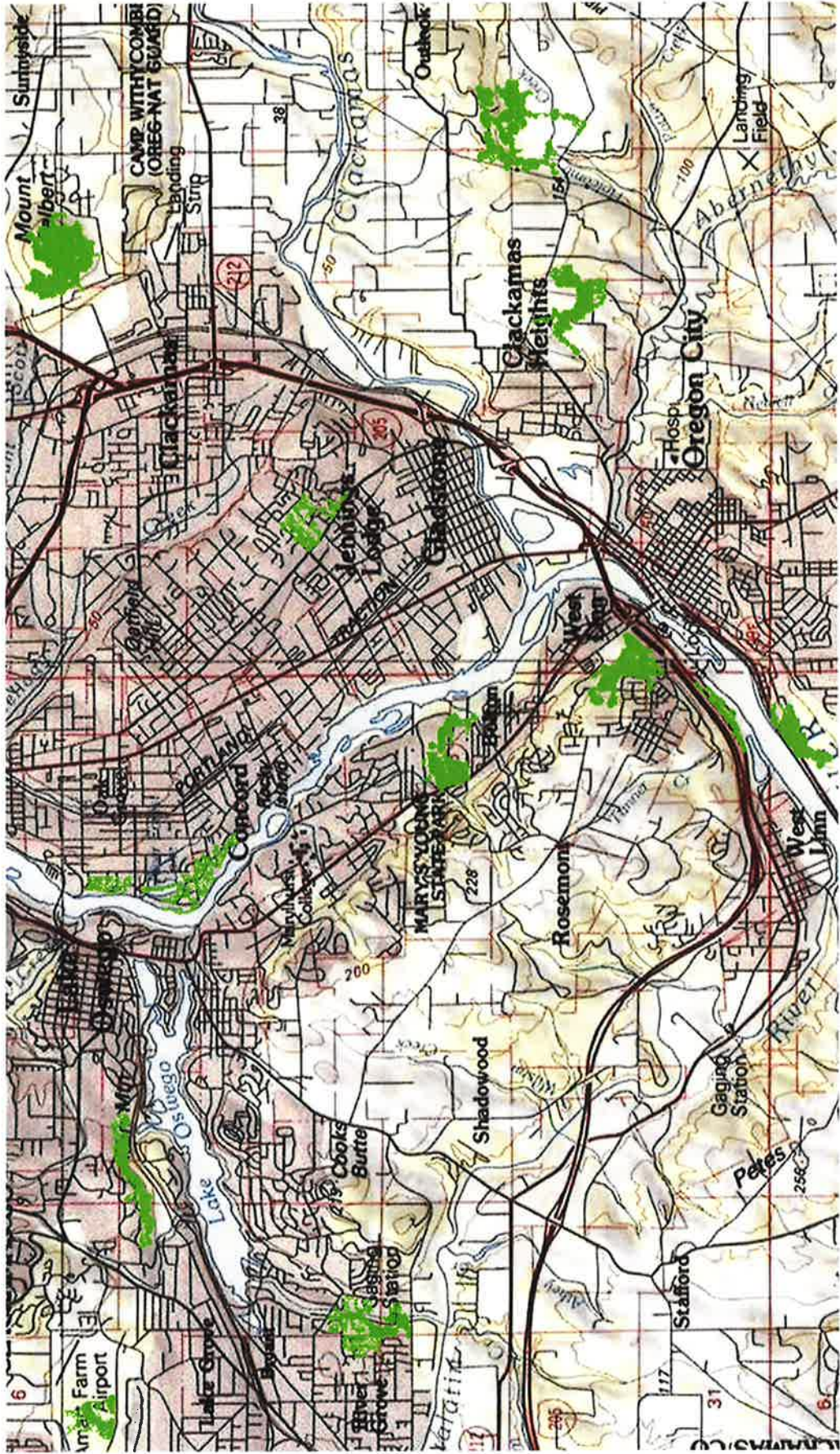




- Connectivity\_Cores
  - OakWoodlandPatches
- OWP\_SUM\_SCORE
- 100 - 215
  - 216 - 270
  - 271 - 345
  - 346 - 495
  - 496 - 920

## Clackamas County Urban Habitat Cores - 14

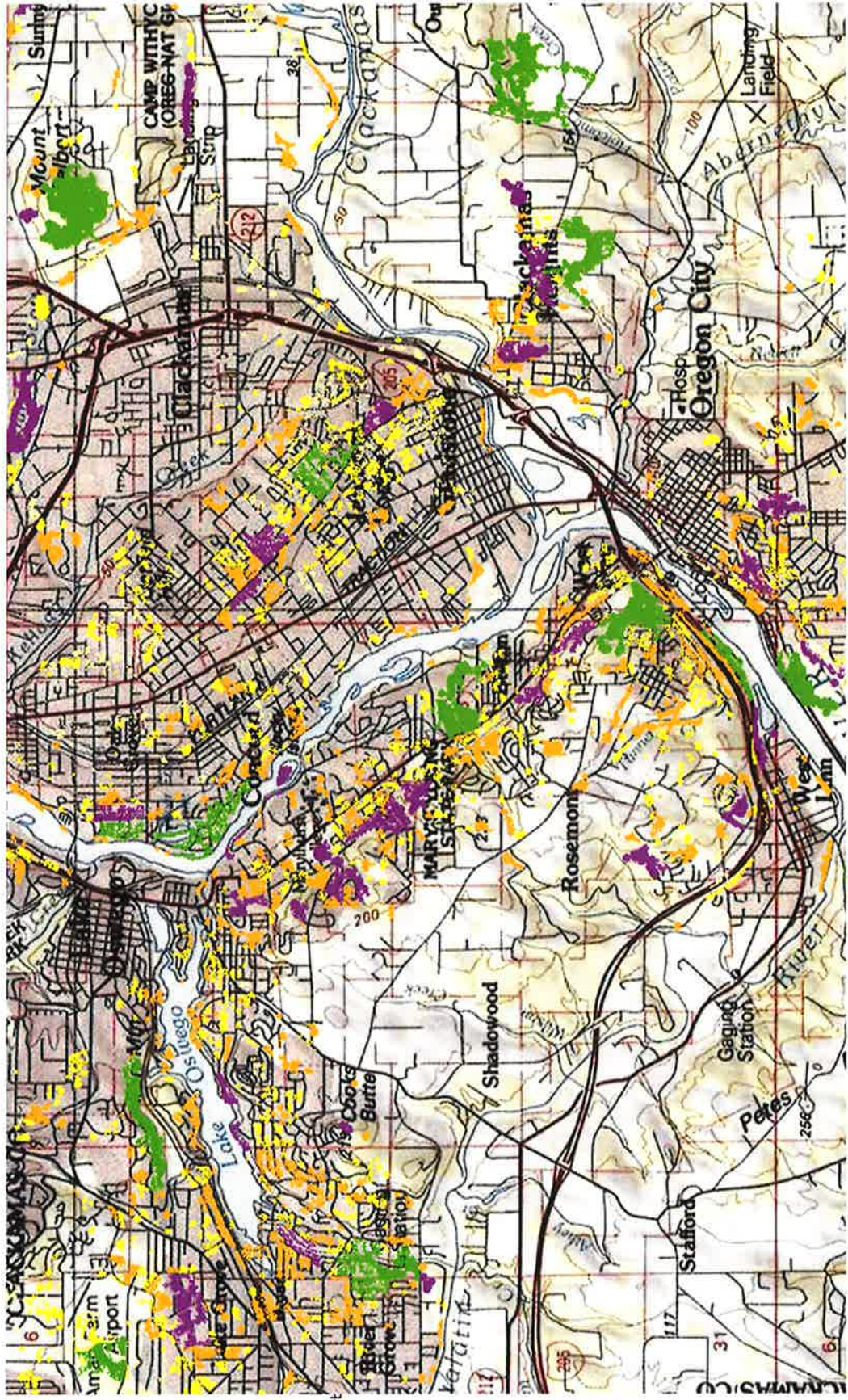
- Canby/Molalla River State Park/Willamette River
- Oregon City/Canemah/South End Rd/Willamette River - 2
- Oregon City/Willamette Falls/Tanner Creek
- Oregon City/Clackamas Heights
- Clackamas/Mt. Talbert
- West Linn/Camassia/Union High School
- West Linn/Mary S. Young State Park/Willamette River
- Lake Oswego Canal/Tualatin River
- Lake Oswego/Iron Mtn
- Lake Oswego/Kruse Way
- Oak Grove/Fair Oaks/Willamette River
- Oak Grove/River Forest Lake/Willamette River
- Jennings Lodge/Oatfield Rd



Connectivity\_Cores





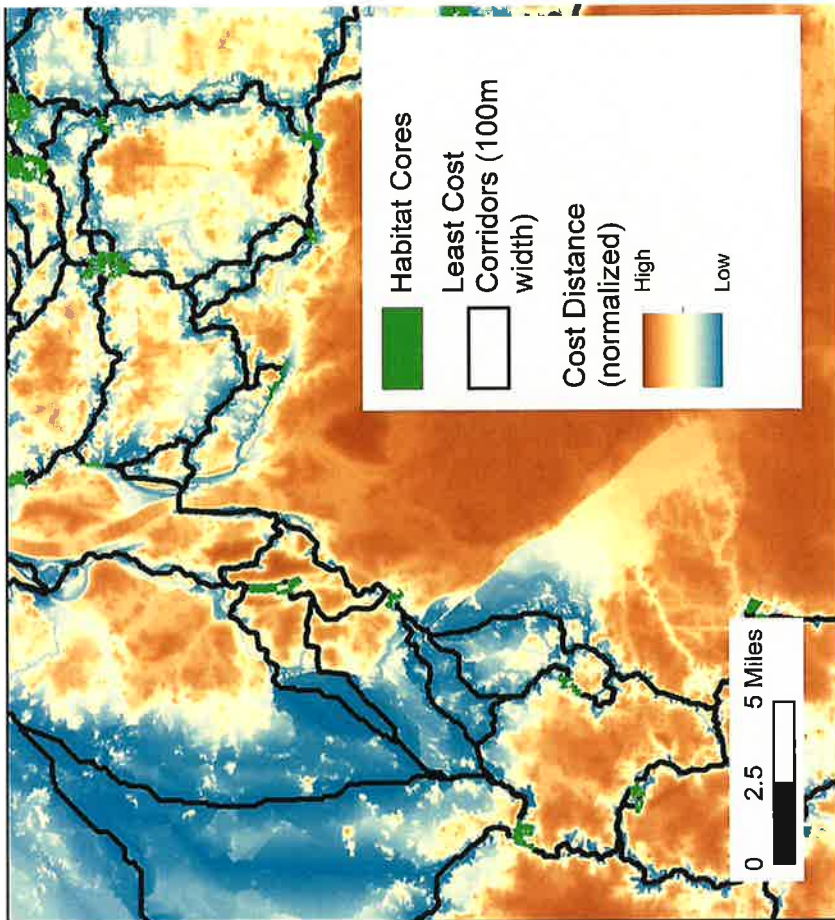
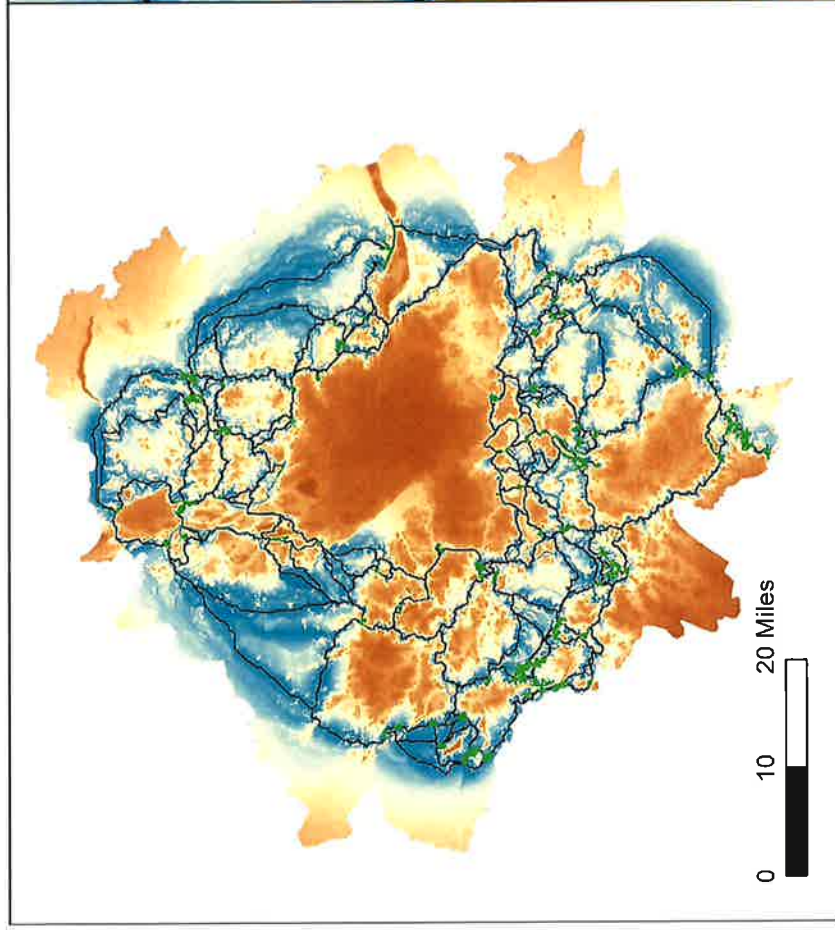


- Connectivity\_Cores
- OakWoodlandPatches\_Uri
  - OWP\_SUM\_SCORE
  - 100 - 195
  - 196 - 245
  - 246 - 315
  - 316 - 470
  - 471 - 830

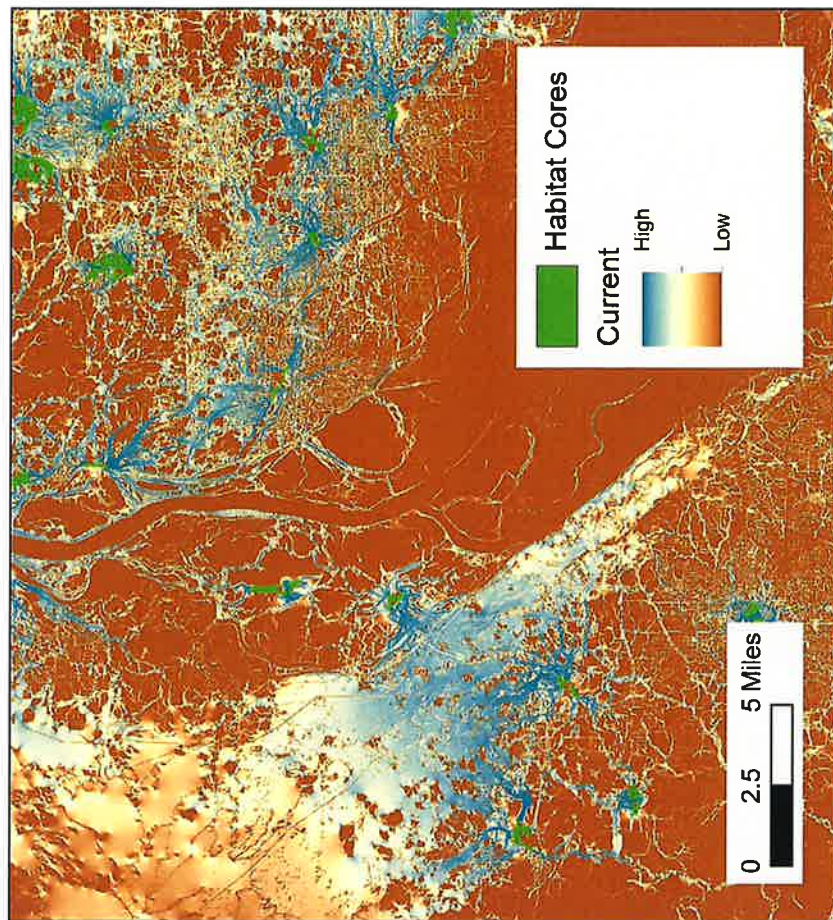
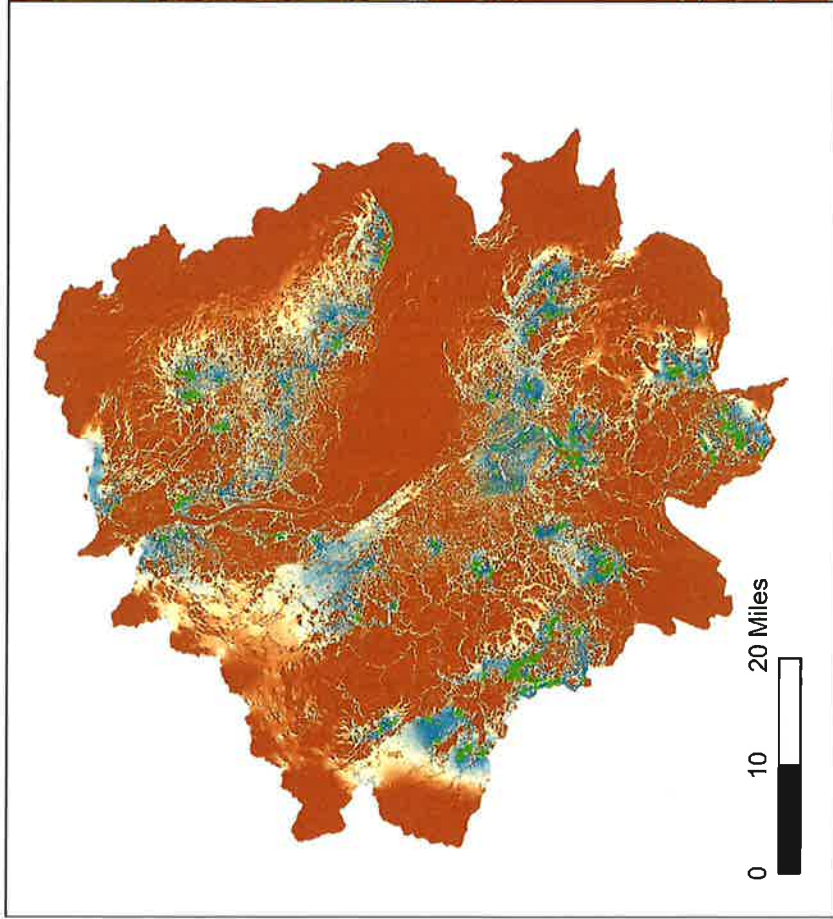
# Connectivity

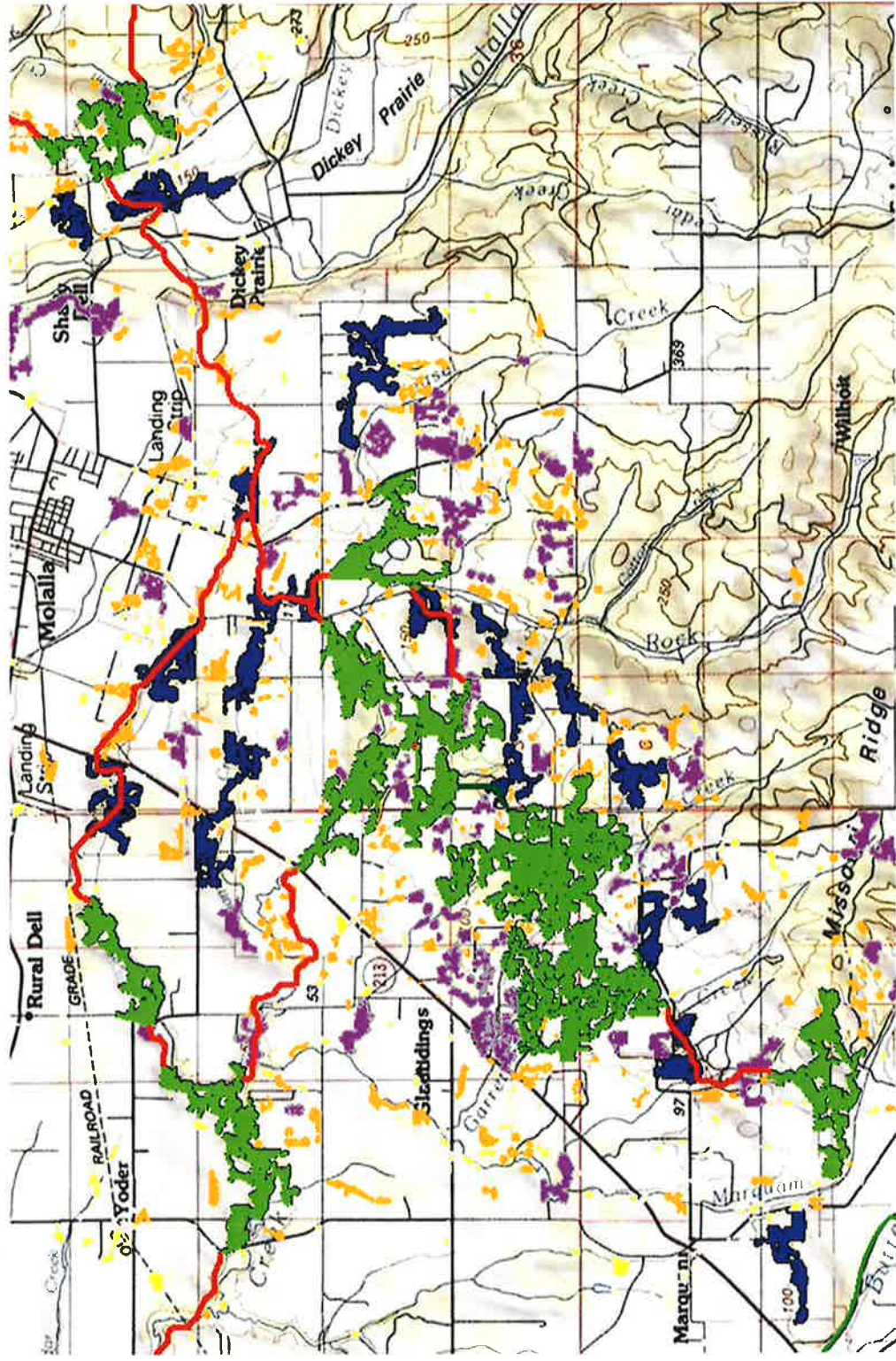
- Modeling the Habitat Cores as sources/destinations for movement
- Relies on a resistance surface
  - Lowest resistance- other oak patches
  - Highest resistance-major roads, buildings, large gaps in habitat
- Circuitscape vs. Least Cost Path

# Least Cost Corridors

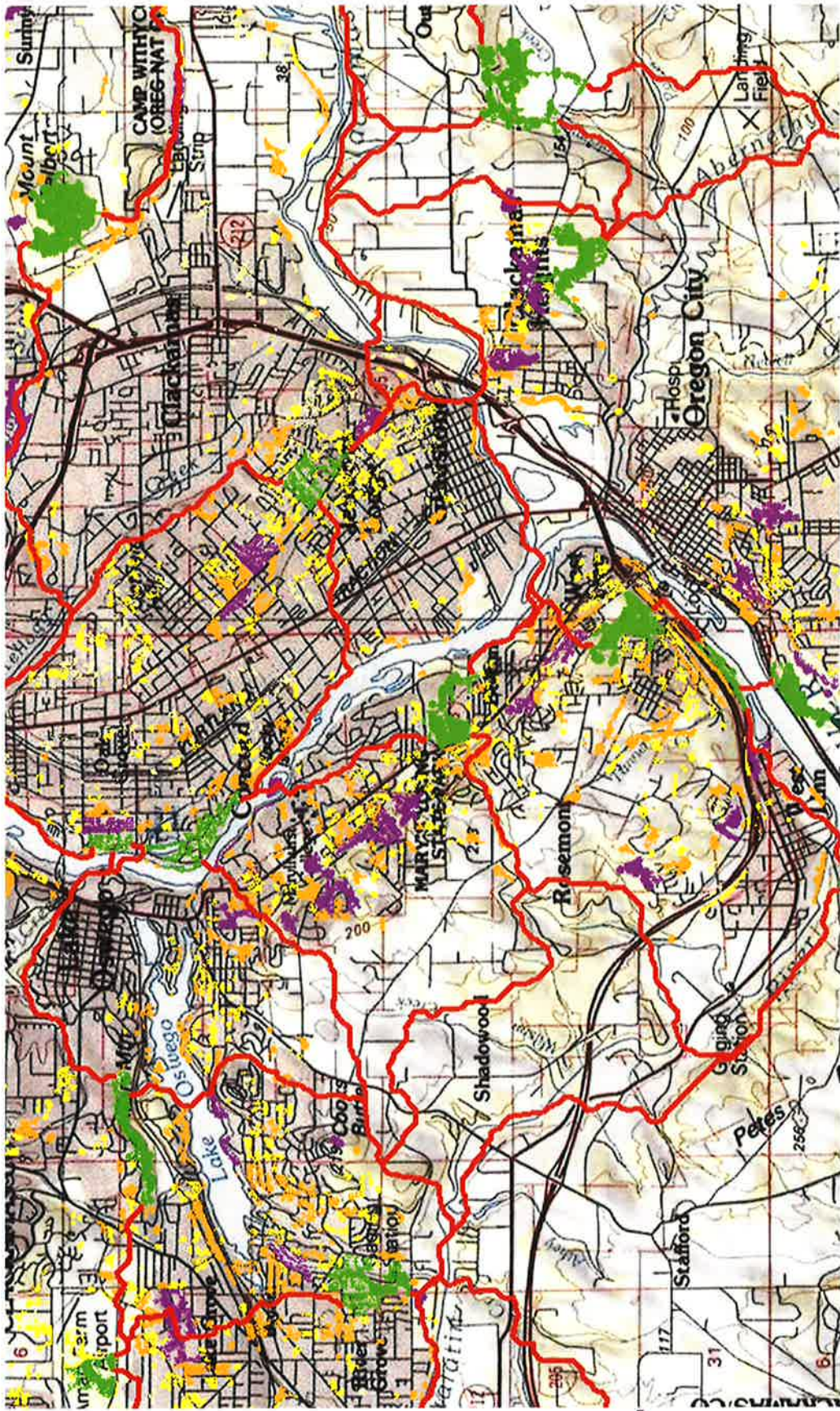


# Circuitscape Connectivity

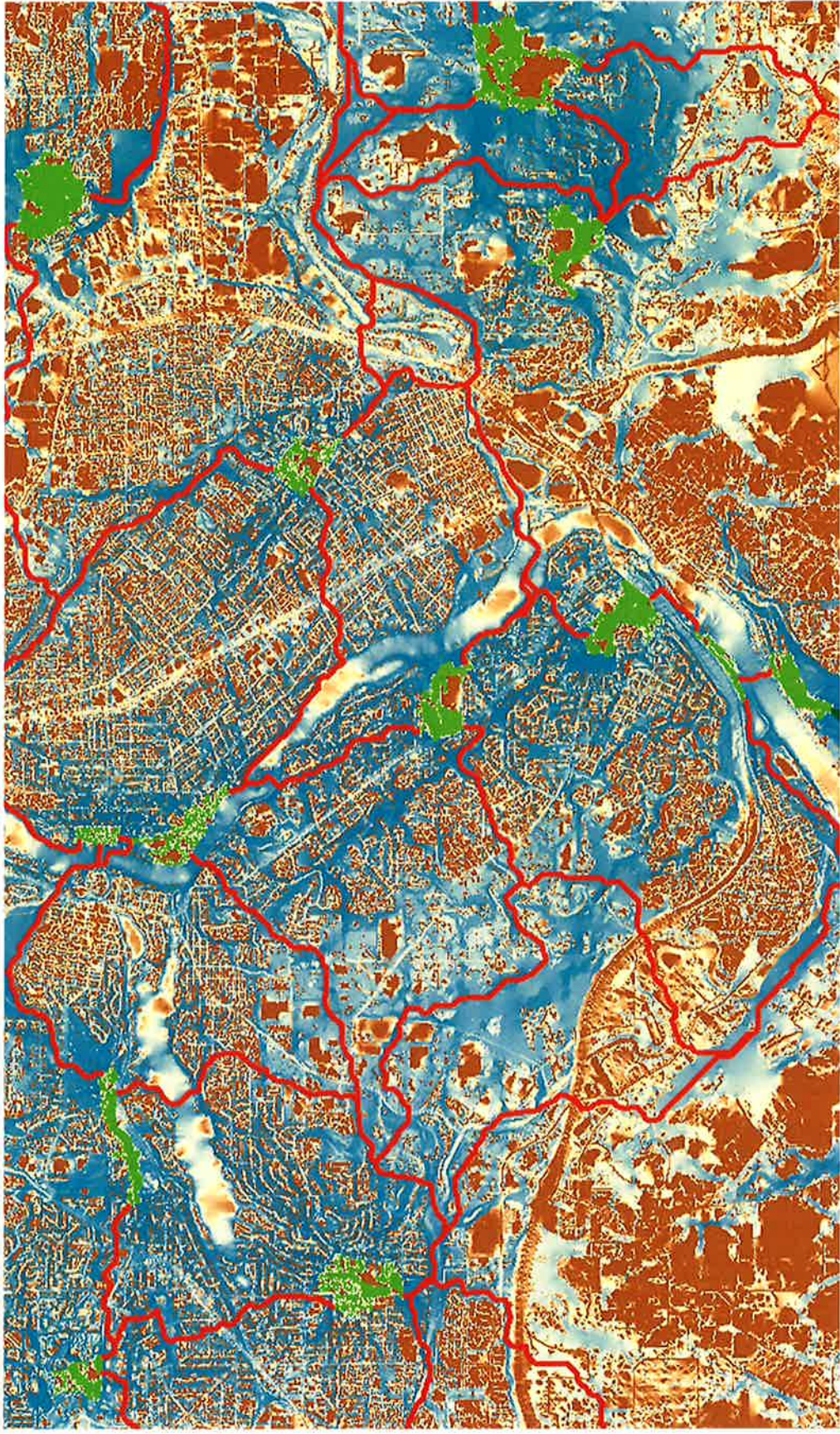




- Connectivity\_LCPs
  - Connectivity\_Cores
  - OakWoodlandPatches
- OWP\_SUM\_SCORE
- 100 - 215
  - 216 - 270
  - 271 - 345
  - 346 - 495
  - 496 - 920



- Connectivity\_LCPs
- Connectivity\_Cores
- OakWoodlandPatches\_Urban
- OWP\_SUM\_SCORE**
  - 100 - 195
  - 196 - 245
  - 246 - 315
  - 316 - 470
  - 471 - 830



Connectivity\_CS\_Current

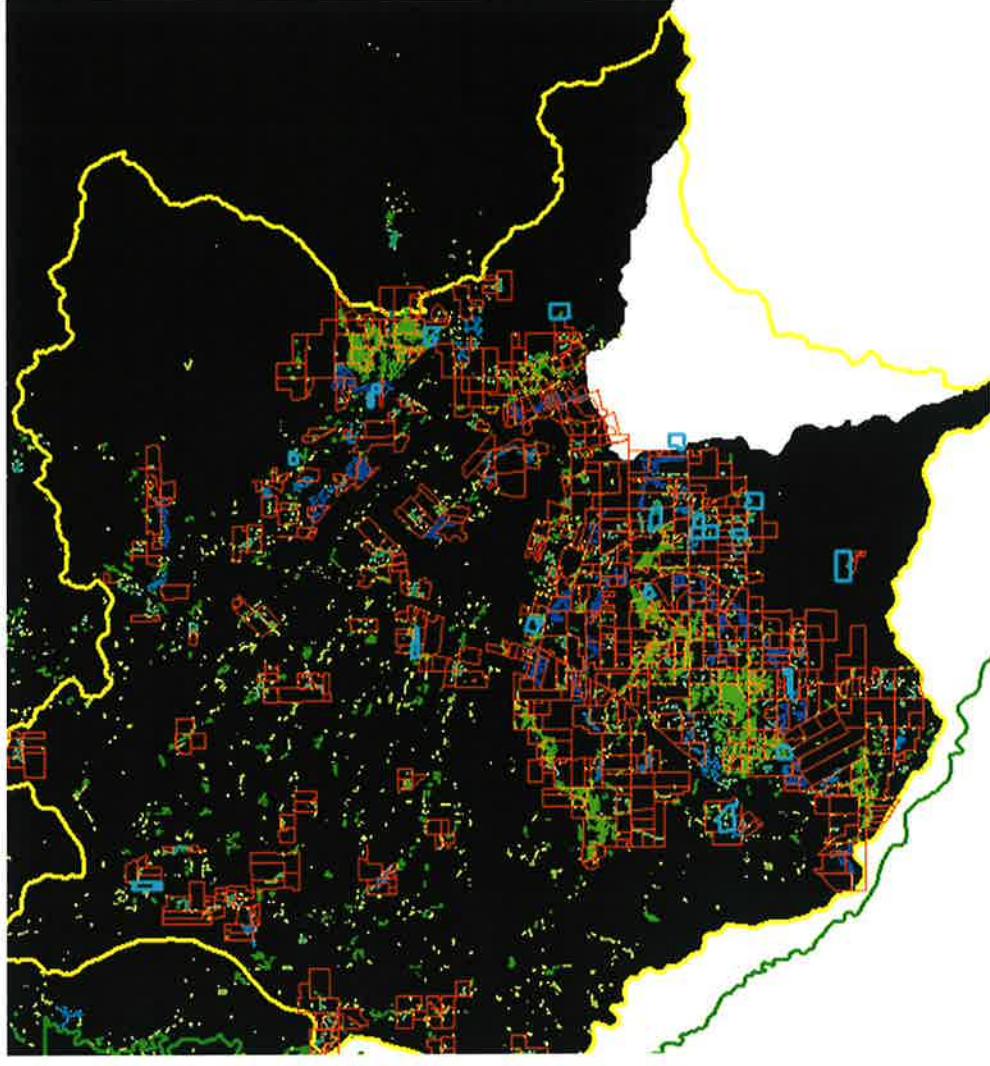
Value

High : 248655

Low : 0

# Using the Mapping Prioritization

- Outreach for oak conservation
- Oak CIS
- Assess work-to-date
- Strategic planning
- Regional oak efforts





## **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives, Organizational & Personal Choices**

### **Diversity ... (Complexity)**

Are we diverse (enough)? Do we really need to change?  
What gains can, or should, be expected for being more diverse? What are the costs?

### **Equity ... (Engagement)**

Do we recognize inequity in the services we currently provide?  
Which marginalized (new) groups would benefit from our engagement?  
e.g., inner urban communities & property owners. (tax funded SWCDs)

### **Inclusion... (Join Us)**

Who should we engage with, to learn more about our communities' needs?  
Who can teach us about the hidden values of the work we do, if they will join us?

*My interest in creating sustainable societies & organizations formally began at the Zero Waste Alliance. Beyond Economics ad Environment, Equity remains the most complex of the 3 Factors of Sustainability Science. It is an area that needs additional public attention, as we build more resilient societies.*

*Partnering with nonprofits (e.g., Josiah Hill Clinic, EPA CARE II Grant) and with local and state level agencies (Oregon Collaborative for Healthy Nail Salons) and salon owners, helped me to better understand these issues.*

*Discussions on Nail Salon worker and client health impacts, due to exposures to low levels of volatile organics (VOCs), led to a Social Determinants of Health project funded by the Northwest Health Foundation.*

*Presentations, and related writings, can be found via my LinkedIn page or SlideShare. Thank you.*

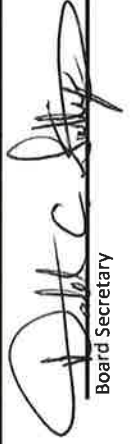
Voucher Approval List

10/17/2021

Date	Number	Payee	Memo	Payment
10/17/2021	100771	AFLAC	Acct: LGF14 [09/2021] 10/2021	\$ 675.30
10/17/2021	100772	Bruce Johnson Construction LLC	CSWCD: SRL-7017 [Septic Rpr] 09/2021	\$ 15,500.00
10/17/2021	100773	Department of the Treasury	CSWCD: [941 Adj 03-2021] 09/2021	\$ 4,149.60
10/17/2021	100774	Garmin Services, Inc	Acct: DL627537 09/2021	\$ 73.66
10/17/2021	100775	Pacific Office Automation	Acct: 900-0266949-000 [100-0417] 08/2021	\$ 182.11
10/17/2021	100776	PGE	Acct: 9606754531 09/2021	\$ 485.45
10/17/2021	100777	Special Districts Insurance Services	CSWCD: WC Policy 2021	\$ 696.65
10/17/2021	100778	T-MOBILE	Acct: 961602090 09/2021	\$ 526.42
10/17/2021	100779	US Bank Voyager Fleet Systems	Acct: 869284679 09/2021	\$ 334.67
<b>Subtotal:</b>				<b>\$ 22,623.86</b>

Date	Number	Payee	Memo	Payment
<b>10/19/2021</b>				
10/18/2021	100780	Nicole Ahr	Reimbursement: Mileage 09/2021	\$ 382.94
10/18/2021	100781	BIO-Med Testing Services, Inc	CLACOREG: Staff Screen 08/2021	\$ 270.00
10/18/2021	100782	Suzi Cloutier	Reimbursement: Mileage 09/2021	\$ 188.16
10/18/2021	100783	Coverall North America, Inc	Acct: 157-6800 [CRC] / [USDA] 10/2021	\$ 1,363.00
10/18/2021	100784	Clackamas Dept of Finance	CSWCD: EE/ER Benefits 10/2021	\$ 23,328.24
10/18/2021	100785	D Franco Contracting Inc	CL-2022-4045 [WW-2019-03] 09/2021	\$ 860.71
10/18/2021	100786	Scott Eden	Reimbursement: Mileage 09/2021	\$ 149.52
10/18/2021	100787	Evergreen Remodeling Inc	CSWCD: SRL-7006 [FINAL] 09/2021	\$ 17,145.22
10/18/2021	100788	Verena Fabian	SuperDOG-1822-4032 [Planting] 09/2021	\$ 171.00
10/18/2021	100789	Green Banks, LLC	WW-2019-05 [CRISP-LK-2021-01] 09/2021	\$ 7,684.00
10/18/2021	100790	Kuznetsov Thinning Company	WW-2019-08 Knotweed 09/2021	\$ 5,150.02
10/18/2021	100791	METRO	MRC1604: RLIS Sub 08/2021	\$ 480.00
10/18/2021	100792	Mosaic Ecology, LLC	WW-2019-09 [CRISP-LK-2021-12] BAER 09/2021	\$ 3,603.16
10/18/2021	100793	Oregon City Garbage, Inc	Acct: 57768000 10/2021	\$ 103.10
10/18/2021	100794	Pamplin Media Group	Acct: 81177287 [Lake Oswego Review] 10/2021	\$ 50.00
10/18/2021	100795	Powell Minuteman Press	CSWCD: B/C S Cloutier 10/2021	\$ 98.00
10/18/2021	100796	SADA Systems, Inc	CSWCD: Google Workspace 09/21-09/22	\$ 6,048.00
10/18/2021	100797	Sound Native Plants Inc	WW-2019-12 [CRISP-2021-13] 09/2021	\$ 5,074.11
10/18/2021	100798	Spire Technologies, Inc	Acct: 02208 Mgt Svcs 11/2021	\$ 2,014.00
10/18/2021	100799	Cascade Septic Tank Svcs	CSWCD: Rpr Svcs [SRL-7016] 50% 10/18/21	\$ 9,930.00
<b>Subtotal:</b>				<b>\$ 84,093.18</b>
<b>Total:</b>				<b>\$ 106,717.04</b>
<b>Total Conservation Fund</b>				<b>\$ 49,618.22</b>

  
Board Chair

  
Board Secretary