



## A Restoration Vision

### Forest and Prairie Projects at Bald Hill Farm

Oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley are some of the most ecologically important and imperiled in Oregon. At Greenbelt Land Trust, we're taking steps to protect and restore these precious habitats for future generations.

Two multi-year habitat restoration projects beginning in 2021 will bring changes to the land at Bald Hill Farm, and trail closures during some phases of the work.

Greenbelt acquired the 587-acre Bald Hill Farm in 2013, and two years later permanently protected the adjacent 170 acre Mulkey Forest. These momentous acquisitions preserved unique habitats and popular public trail connections between Bald Hill Farm and Fitton Green Natural Area.

Our vision for these properties includes restoring prairie and oak woodland habitats, and in 2021 we are launching two significant restoration projects to move that vision forward.

### Forest Thinning and Restoration

This summer Greenbelt is initiating a 2-year forest thinning and habitat restoration project on Mulkey Forest. This project will connect ecologically important oak

savanna, oak woodland, and prairie habitats, decrease wildfire risk, and increase access for wildfire response.

“**Prairies and oak savannas are biologically diverse, fire adapted ecosystems. Through their restoration we can provide habitat for imperiled species and a safer landscape for our community.**

- Matt Blakeley Smith  
Stewardship Director

Oak savanna and woodland habitats in the Willamette Valley provide beauty and cultural resources to our human communities, homes for over 200 species of wildlife, and are more fire resilient than the conifer forests that have been displacing them over the last 175 years.

Climate change is intensifying drought conditions in the Willamette Valley and conifer species like Douglas-fir are seeing dramatic die-offs due to

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## EXPLORE INSIDE

Summer 2021

Restoration Projects

New Staff

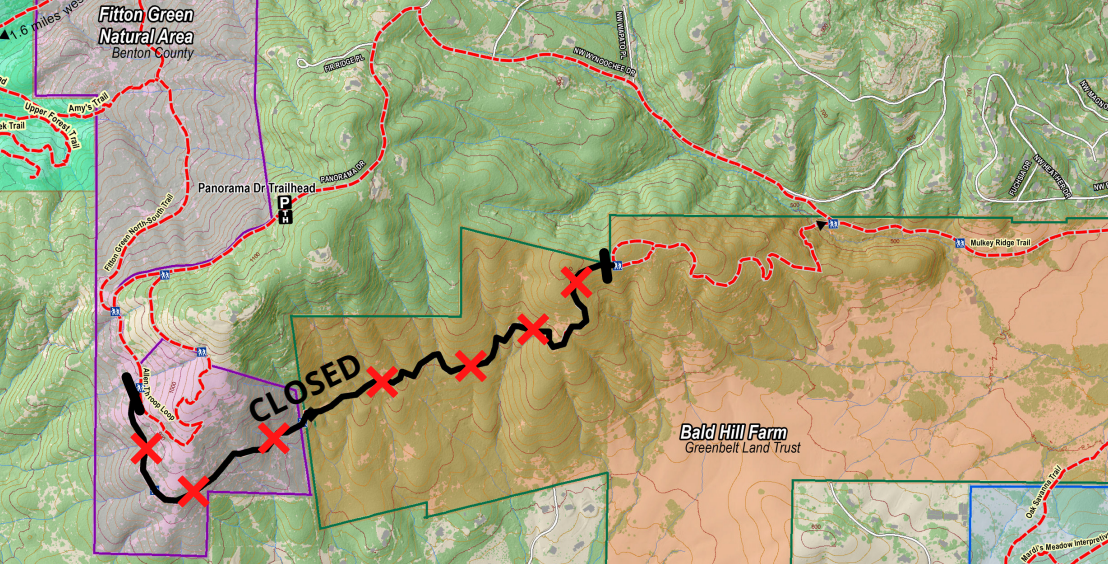
Member Highlight

Volunteer Opportunities



Acorn woodpecker granary

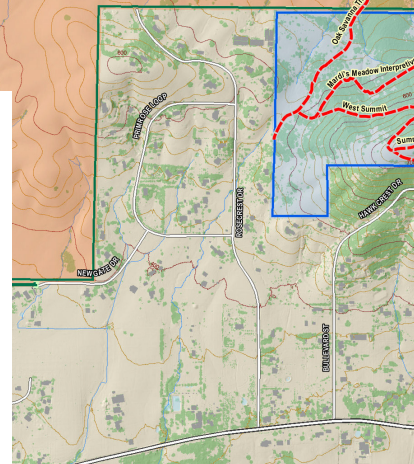




## Mulkey Trail Closure

Take note for summer hiking plans

Starting on July 12th and continuing through the summer, the trail connecting Bald Hill Farm to Fittin Green County Natural Area will be closed for the tree removal phase of the project. Visit our website for more information about this project and for opportunities to take a public tour.



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drought stress, disease, and pests. In forests where high-density, fast-growing conifers are impacting oak habitats, fire danger is at high levels, and the opportunity to see multiple benefits for wildlife and people from oak restoration is significant.

We are working with Trout Mountain Forestry under the guidance of a detailed Forest Stewardship Plan developed with oversight from State and Federal agencies, input from natural resources professionals, and public feedback. This project is being undertaken using best management practices with a careful, conservative approach that protects wildlife and human safety.

## Bald Hill Farm Prairie Restoration

If you've visited Bald Hill Farm this summer you have probably noticed that the pastures along the trail are a lot less green and no longer hosting some friendly cows. The cows have been moved to pastures further west on the property as site preparation begins for two years of active native prairie restoration!

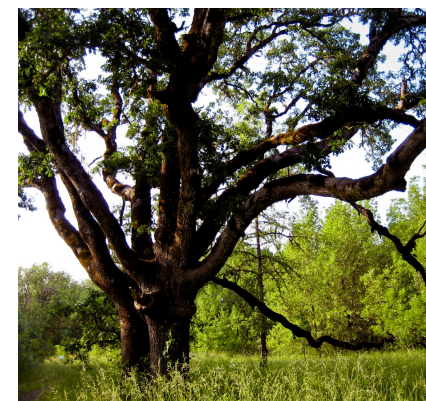
With less than 1% of Willamette Valley native prairie remaining, protected lands with former prairie are a focus for ecological restoration. By restoring native plant communities we can support rare and declining plant and animal species, and prevent extirpation or extinction for species like Oregon vesper sparrow and Taylor's checkerspot butterfly.

In addition to treatment of non-native plants, some of the Oregon ash trees in the restoration area will be removed, and vernal pools will be created for use by a variety of wildlife species including migrating shorebirds, waterfowl, amphibians, and many aquatic invertebrates and insects.

The restored prairie will be planted with native plants, seeds, and bulbs. Keep an eye out for ongoing volunteer workdays to help with plantings and prairie stewardship!

## Restoration Impact

Iconic Oregon species benefit



(top to bottom) Prairie restoration provides habitat for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly; the imperiled Oregon Vesper Sparrow; legacy Oregon white oak trees will benefit from forest restoration; wet prairies will be bursting with the blues and purples of camas in the spring.



# Greenbelt is Growing!

Welcome, new staff

INGRY THUROW they/she



Ingrid has 'hit the ground running' as Greenbelt's new Volunteer Coordinator! Ingrid comes to us with ten years of experience supporting the leadership development of people outdoors. The greatest joy of their career has been spending time with people who start off as strangers but form strong bonds with each other—and the more-than-human world—through working together in service to land and water.

CAROLYN MENKE she/her



We were delighted to have Carolyn join Greenbelt in June as Stewardship Manager, bringing eighteen years of experience working to conserve western Oregon and southwest Washington species and habitats. She is passionate about collaborative partnerships and implementing regional conservation planning and on-the-ground restoration, particularly for prairie and oak habitats.

ALEX KASTE he/him



You can find Alex driving 'Ruby the Tractor' across Greenbelt properties this summer. Since joining the land trust in June as a seasonal habitat restoration technician, Alex has been working with the stewardship team to maintain our properties. Hailing from Wyoming, Alex is a student in Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation Science with a certificate in Geographic Information Sciences at OSU.

## say hello!

[ingry@greenbeltlandtrust.org](mailto:ingry@greenbeltlandtrust.org)

[carolyn@greenbeltlandtrust.org](mailto:carolyn@greenbeltlandtrust.org)

[seasonal@greenbeltlandtrust.org](mailto:seasonal@greenbeltlandtrust.org)



Klaus and Maureen Puettmann share the joy of connecting with nature on the trails at Bald Hill Farm.

## Why We Give: Maureen and Klaus

There are over 18 miles of trails connecting Bald Hill Farm to Fitton Green and beyond, and Maureen Puettmann knows every inch of them. Finding herself in a trail running paradise, Maureen was inspired to do just that when she and her husband, Klaus, returned to Corvallis in 2000. "I feel so fortunate every day when I can walk from my house and access so many beautiful trails. By far, the Mulkey Creek loop trail is my favorite." (Her puppy Smoky likes anywhere with a big stick.)

Over twenty years later, Maureen is still inspired by the network of trails that connects our community and their role in our physical and mental health. "In the spring of 2020 when the Covid lock down hit, Klaus and I walked that trail every day and witnessed, I believe, every wildflower blooming over the weeks. It was access to the Greenbelt trail system that helped us through a difficult year."



## Volunteer with us!

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Ingry Thurow:  
[ingry@greenbeltlandtrust.org](mailto:ingry@greenbeltlandtrust.org) to sign up!

### **Saturday, August 6th**

#### **Seed Collecting at Courtney Creek**

Learn about native wildflowers and collect seed for future restoration projects at Courtney Creek, outside of Brownsville.

### **Saturday, September 18th**

#### **Native Plant Nursery**

Put your green thumb to work in our native plant nursery, helping to grow plants for future restoration projects.

### **Saturday, October 9th**

#### **Habitat Restoration at Lupine Meadows**

Help us improve habitat for the endangered Fender's blue butterfly and the Oregon vesper sparrow.

## **Find Your Volunteer Role!**

What's your passion or skill? Get in touch with us about independent volunteer positions and projects.

