A Seed Revolution!!
Practicing the Art of Land Recovery

As chillier days approach the valley this fall and winter, WRP begins its next cycle of seed saving for upland prairie restoration in the Whilamut Natural Area Butterfly Meadow. WRP has been restoring the Whilamut Natural Area Butterfly Meadow since 2005, and the project is now into its second phase of treatment. Prior to our work, the ‘butterfly meadow’ consisted of a weedy grass field abutting a bottomland hardwood forest leading to the Willamette River. If you were able to visit the site this past spring, though, you would have seen a 15,000 square foot area filled with over 25 species of native wildflowers including the early blooming shooting stars (Dodecatheon hendersonii) and the more rare large flowered collomia (Collomia grandiflora). With support from the City of Eugene and BLM, WRP spent the summer of 2004 and 2005 collecting seeds for these scarce upland prairie species close in to Eugene. We were able to propagate the seeds and plant them out at the meadow in fall 2005 following the removal of solarization plastic that was placed on the site in spring 2005.

Our approach for this year is to find the most effective non-chemical site preparation treatments and to establish a centralized nursery for seed grow-out production. The meadow site has now expanded into established plots that are being selectively treated for weeds by hand removal, shade cloth placement, thermal treatment with a propane flaming unit (to mimic fire), and Waipuna organic foam treatment (hot foam comprised of plant extracts from corn and coconut sugars). Practicing the art of land restoration can be a humbling experience, and our hope is that project results will be put to use as an active land management model for additional herbicide-free restoration projects at prairie ecosystems in the Southern Willamette Valley. If you would like to become involved in this project, please contact us at 484-3939.
Our Mission

The Walama Restoration Project (WRP) is a community organized non-profit, founded in 2001, and dedicated to the enhancement, rehabilitation, and restoration of the waterways, forest, and grassland ecosystems within and adjacent to the Willamette Valley. WRP provides a crucial community service by actively maintaining the unique and fragile ecosystems in this valley. In addition to ecosystem restoration, our organization develops and implements educational outreach programs for school groups and the public to encourage local ecosystem awareness.

~NEWS FROM THE FIELD~

WRP field crews spent this past summer of 2006 in pristine forested creeks, middle elevation mountain meadows, and bunchgrass-laden lowland prairies. **WRP staff noted the following flowering plants that are intriguing to see and inspirational for our work as restoration contractors**: blue calico flower (elegans, D. yina), showy plectritis (Plectritis congesta), Kincaids lupine (Lupinus sulphureus ssp. Kincaidii), Thompson’s mistmaiden (Romanzoffia thompsonii), red paintbrush (Castilleja miniata), and Gorman’s aster (Aster gormanii).

In July, WRP collaborated with Jenny Lippert, botanist of the Willamette National Forest, on a unique restoration project throughout the Cascades. **The purpose of this newly developed project was to conduct manual weed control and to develop revegetation plans in specified areas where there are rare and endangered fish, wildlife, and plants on the McKenzie and Sweet Home Ranger Districts of the Willamette National Forest.** We hope to continue our partnership with the Forest Service on this project and to develop effective non-chemical techniques to restore and recover these sensitive ecosystems in the years to come.

**WRP continued its third year in restoring wet prairie habitat on over 60 acres in the West Eugene Wetlands.** In collaboration with the City of Eugene, The Nature Conservancy, and the Eugene BLM, WRP removed over 15 species of noxious weeds, conducted Fenders Blue Butterfly surveys near Willow Creek Preserve, and planted thousands of native shrubs and trees throughout the wetlands.

Celebrating Local Ecology, Restoration, and Stewardship

Our strong ties with Hendricks Park extend far beyond restoration. Last May, WRP and Friends of Hendricks Park facilitated field trips at Hendricks Park with four classrooms from **Harris Elementary School to celebrate Hendricks Park’s Centennial Year.** Students participated in activities ranging from sensory games, historical skits, and storytelling to botanical drawing and spring plant ecology walks with WRP staff. We would like to thank FoHP for funding the two-day program and for providing volunteers.
An Exploration in High Mountain Meadows

WRP’s close relationship with the Network Charter School has led to a unique and unforgettable experience in the High Cascades of Central Oregon. On September 28th, a group of NCS students joined WRP staff to conduct restoration work near the Pacific Crest Trail in the Obsidian Falls region of the Three Sisters Wilderness. Students took soil samples at selected sites, gathered cuttings of two ground cover plants (partridge foot and dwarf brambleberry), and collected information on weather and site conditions.

Despite the fact that none of the students had ever trekked that far into the woods, they worked with motivation and excitement during the long 12-mile round trip hike to the bases of Middle and North Sisters. Students also studied the ecological and geological history of the Three Sisters Wilderness, the names and habits of selected sub alpine plants, and the ethics of land stewardship in pristine wilderness areas. WRP whole-heartedly thanks all the participating students and, especially Billy Hughes, instructor for the Intro to Permaculture class, for helping organize and facilitate the trip!

As always, WRP sends our deepest thanks to the following supporters, volunteers, and foundations: Sandra and Fred Austin, Lorna Baldwin, Jesse Caryhobbs, Claire, Kurt Cox, James Drivas, Friends of Hendricks Park, Paul Gordon, Harris Elementary School, Michelle Henney, Kate Hirst, Billy Hughes, National Forest Foundation, Pam Reber, REI, Trevor Taylor, Tulsi Wallace, Watersheds Raingear

Meet WRP’s Newest Staff Member!

Alison Rajek grew up in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and moved to Eugene 7 years ago to attend the University of Oregon. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and has since begun, with her partner, a local beeswax candle company called Casper Candles. Alison began working with WRP in July, focusing on general bookkeeping, organizing our growing membership database, and fundraising. Alison enjoys working with WRP because she believes that environmental stewardship is an important asset to the community, bringing people of all ages together to care for the endangered ecosystems that are present in our local parks and open spaces. When Alison isn’t doing all of her important tasks for WRP, including picking up after the incredibly disorganized program director (that was not in her job description), she can be found gardening at her Whiteaker home, riding her bike around town, and cross country skiing in the Cascades. We are excited about having her as a new addition to our organization.
Walama Restoration Project relies on community support to continue facilitating our educational programs. If you would like to become involved by volunteering at a work party or by making a tax-deductible contribution, please fill out this form and send to:

Walama Restoration Project
PO Box 894
Eugene, OR 97440

Yes! I would like to be a supporter!

- Limited income $15
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Don’t Miss Our Benefit at Track Town Pizza on Tuesday, November 14th!!!

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PO Box 894
Eugene, OR 97440

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Ina Magnus planting trees with WRP at Gudu-kut Natural Area