
For immediate release: Workshop series to focus on coastal prairie conservation



The Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council, and Taft High School students in partnership with the Siuslaw National Forest, is hosting the fourth and final workshop designed to explore the status of coastal prairies and examine all the tools available for restoration beginning Sunday February 21st, at the Wi-Ne-Ma Hall (Camp Winema) beginning at 1 pm. The day will begin with a trip to Nestucca National Wildlife Refuge with a walking tour of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service restored coastal prairie ecosystem at Cannery Hill. This trip will focus on the restored plant community which include the Blue violet, nectar flowers and native grasses to benefit the Oregon Silver Spot Butterfly and other wildlife. **Participants will receive original frame-able print depicting the Oregon Silver Spot Butterfly's life cycle!**

Following the hike SDCWC and four Taft High School students from Lincoln City will help to facilitate the workshop where the discussion will continue on coastal prairie ecology and include interactive conversations about restoration tools and where to apply opportunities. USFS, and the Institute for Applied Ecology will present on the historical botanical conditions of the coastal prairies and conservation successes restoring habitat at Cannery Hill. Tribal perspectives on traditional uses of coastal prairies will also be presented.

With a focus on the coastal prairies in the Cascade Head area, the SDCWC and the U.S. Forest Service hope to gain insights from the community on the value of coastal prairies and what kind of future for the prairie they would like to see. The workshop series will provide findings and education on prairie ecosystems, explore the current condition of coastal prairies, and initiate discussions about methods to practice restoration strategies for the area. The goal of the workshop series is to gather recommendations from the community on a feasible restoration pathway for the coastal prairies in the Cascade Head area.

The students are REEF (Restoring Ecosystems, Educating Future Conservation Leaders) program participants and interns with SDCWC. Over several months they have participated in career development opportunities, facilitation skills training, and conducting field work with scientists to learn about the coastal prairie ecosystems. Margery, Brandon, Preston and Ayala will in turn share their knowledge and experience with the Cascade Head community to further the conservation of this beautiful area. Enjoy food prepared courtesy of Taft 7th-12th grade Culinary Arts Program.

The date and location for the workshop:

- **February 21:** Wi-Ne-Ma Hall (Camp Winema), 5195 Wi Ne Ma Rd, Cloverdale, OR 97112, 1:00-5:00 PM; with a tour of Cannery Hill prairie restoration- Nestucca Wildlife Refuge - weather permitting

According to Graham Klag, project coordinator "information gathered at the workshops will be compiled by the students into a report, which will be presented to the Council and the Forest Service to help inform future decision-making in the area. This is your opportunity to be part of the process and the solution!" Klag emphasizes that this is just one of many steps in any future management proposals related to coastal prairie restoration. These proposals will undergo environmental analysis and public engagement as required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

For more information about the meetings or the coastal prairie ecosystem

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