

Willamette Basin Synthesis Project

A Collaborative Approach to Conservation Planning and Natural Resource Data Development

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, The Wetlands Conservancy, the Willamette Partnership, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, The Defenders of Wildlife, Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Biodiversity Project, Metro

Project Goals

***The Nature Conservancy's
Willamette Valley
Ecoregional Assessment***

***The Pacific Northwest
Ecosystem Research
Consortium's Willamette
River Basins Alternative
Futures Project***

***Oregon Department of Fish
and Wildlife's
Comprehensive
Conservation Strategy***

***Critical Habitat
Designations and Recovery
Plans for Willamette Valley
Fish and Endemics***

***The Wetlands Conservancy
Priority Wetlands***

Oregon Biodiversity Project

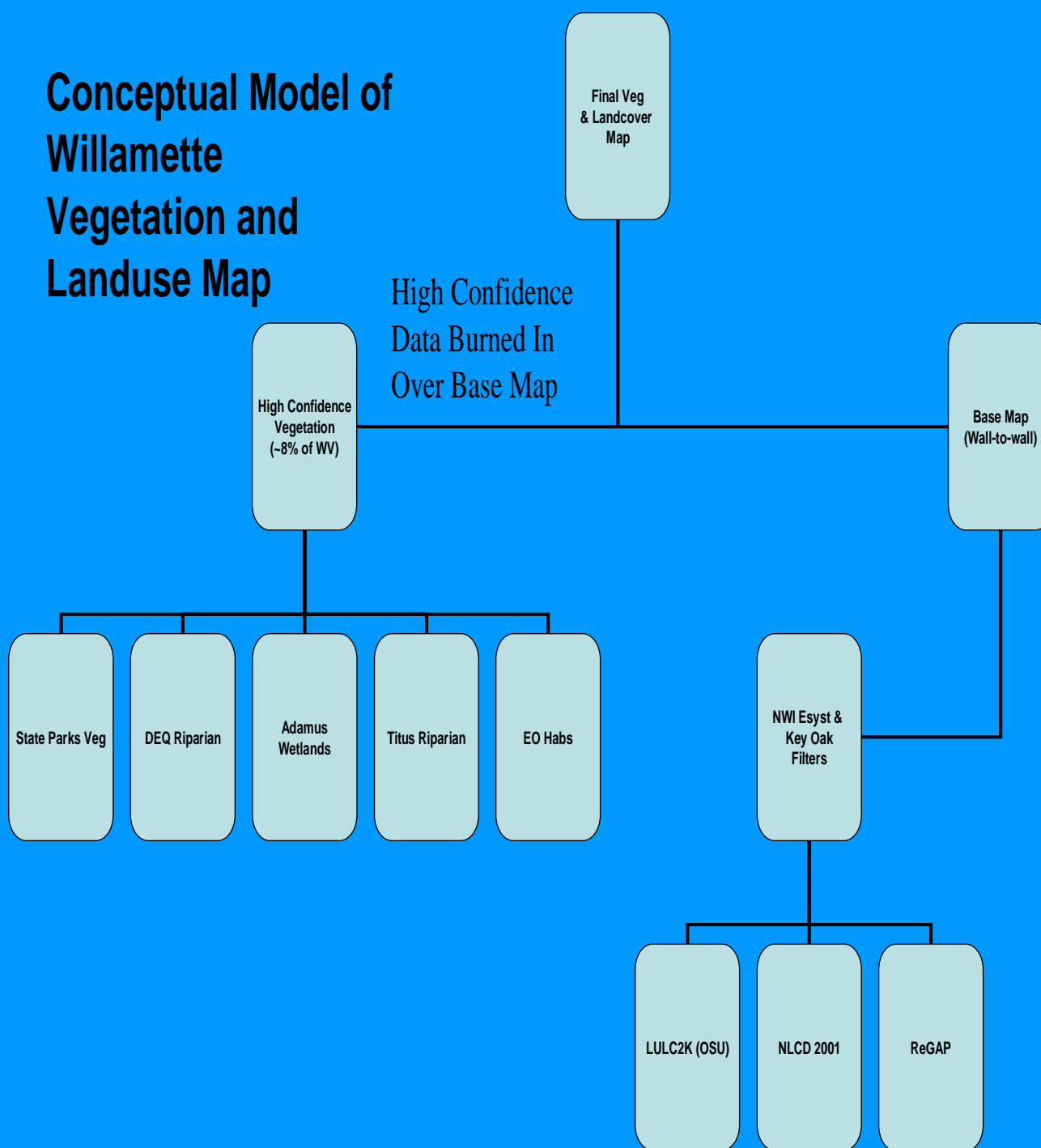
The primary goal of this Synthesis Project is to delineate priority terrestrial and freshwater sites where investment in conservation or restoration would best contribute to

- The health of historically significant and functional habitats
- The survival or recovery of imperiled plants and wildlife dependent on those habitats
- Improved floodplain connectedness to benefit water quality for aquatic biodiversity
- Overall watershed health

The Union Portfolio

- Features from 5 major Willamette conservation assessments were combined into a “Union Portfolio”
- Site boundaries were refined using 2005 imagery and current GIS data for rare species, vegetation, soils, ownership/management, land use and zoning
- A few additional sites were added to incorporate good examples of native habitats and species
- Some new sites will be added for wetlands and aquatics and to improve connectivity

Conceptual Model of Willamette Vegetation and Landuse Map



Example of Collaborative Data Development

- Vegetation and Landuse data was compiled from 9 separate data sources
- As better data is developed it will supplant older data
- Conservation priority areas will be tested against and refined with the new information

Trends to Encourage in Regional Planning

- **Collaboration between many stakeholder groups to improve outcomes and likelihood of implementation**
- **Use of existing data whenever possible**
- **New data developed to allow update and to be as widely applicable as possible**
- **Use of new technology to centralize and share data, standards, methods and lessons learned**