

Coyote Creek Northeast Acquisition

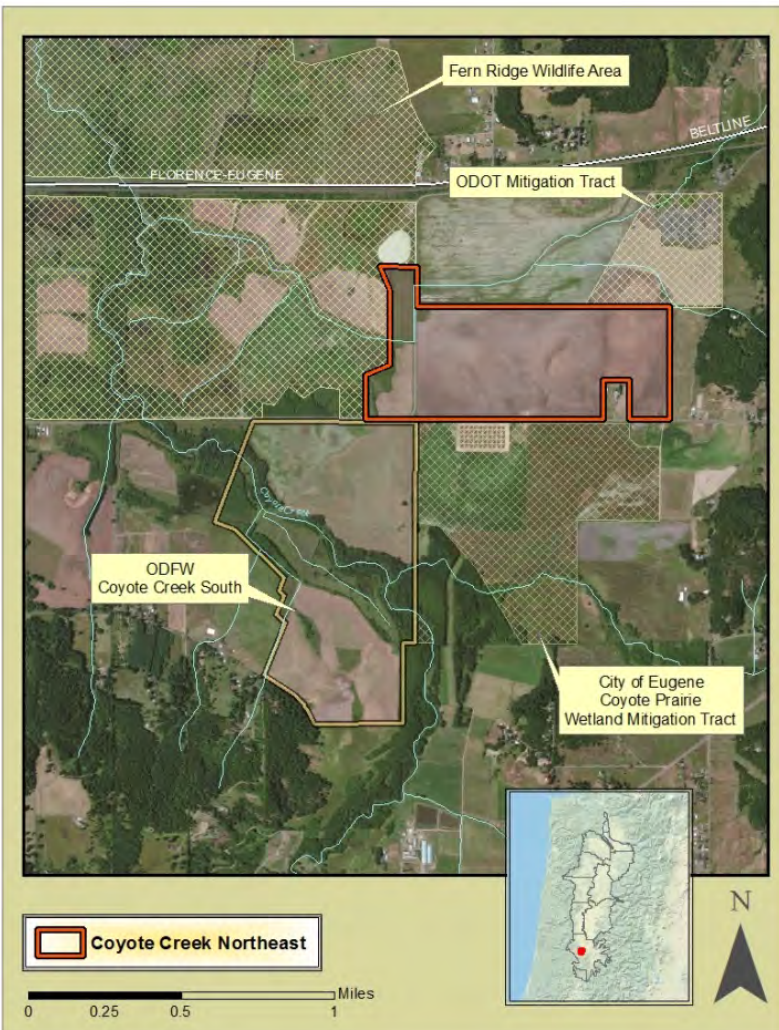
About the Coyote Creek Northeast property:

The Coyote Creek Northeast (Coyote Creek NE) property is approximately 225 acres located just west of the City of Eugene in Lane County, in the West Eugene Wetlands/Spencer Creek Conservation Opportunity Area (COA). The property is adjacent to Fern Ridge Wildlife Area, as well as the Coyote Creek South property recently acquired and managed by ODFW with similar habitat protection and restoration goals.

The property has been utilized for grass seed and hay production for many years. Currently the property is leased for agriculture purposes until restoration efforts begin.

ODFW’s interest in the Coyote Creek Northeast property:

This property will conserve approximately 225 acres of future prairie habitat when restored. Coyote Creek NE will provide habitats for a variety of wildlife including declining grassland birds, amphibians, reptiles, raptors, waterfowl, and other species. Restoration will also provide opportunities for reintroduction of endangered Willamette Valley plant species associated with wet prairie, such as the federally Endangered Bradshaw's lomatium (*Lomatium bradshawii*) and Willamette daisy (*Erigeron decumbens* var. *decumbens*).



Rare grassland birds, such as the western meadowlark and streaked horned lark have been documented on the site. Restoring the property will increase habitat connectivity between the on-site wet prairie and large blocks of priority habitats on adjacent conservation sites, such as the City of Eugene’s wetland mitigation site, Fern Ridge Wildlife Area, and ODFW’s recent Coyote Creek South acquisition. This landscape level habitat conservation has the potential to greatly benefit Oregon Conservation Strategy priority species, especially rare plant species and the recent federally listed Threatened streaked horn lark.

ODFW manages the 5,261 acre Fern Ridge Wildlife Area under a 25-year agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers, which owns and operates Fern Ridge Reservoir. Coyote Creek NE will be managed in coordination with the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area. The property is available for public recreational activities such as wildlife viewing, hunting, education and interpretation. Public access is off Cantrell Road and access may be limited during

sensitive bird nesting seasons and to areas where sensitive plants have been located.

Acquisition process and funding:

After a public meeting in November 2014 with interested stakeholders ODFW staff presented the potential acquisition, including information gathered through public input, to the Fish and Wildlife Commission and the acquisition was approved.

The acquisition of this property was funded through the ODFW Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program. The program funding is provided by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) through a 15 year agreement between ODFW and BPA to settle federal wildlife habitat mitigation obligations in the Willamette Valley.

Long-term restoration and management:

ODFW's habitat restoration goal for this property is to restore farm fields to wet prairie. The property could support a mosaic of vernal pool, wet prairie, and upland prairie habitats within an existing complex of conserved lands. This habitat would benefit streaked horned lark, western meadowlark and other grassland birds, with seasonal use by waterfowl. The habitat will also be restored to support expanding populations of Willamette daisy, Kincaid's lupine, and Bradshaw's lomatium. The property will greatly enhance the ability of the surrounding lands to support breeding populations of grassland birds which are highly dependent on expansive, open landscapes.

ODFW is currently developing a management plan specific to the property that will detail ODFW's planned management and restoration actions. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on this management plan.



Bradshaw's lomatium. ODFW photo.

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