

Coyote Creek South

About the Coyote Creek South property:

Coyote Creek South is a 309 acre property located west of the City of Eugene in Lane County, in the West Eugene Wetlands/Spencer Creek Conservation Opportunity Area (COA). This COA includes the largest remaining wet prairie in the Willamette Valley. Together with the Coyote Creek Riparian COA, this area supports valley bottom wetland, grassland, and riparian habitats with the highest remaining concentration of rare Willamette Valley at-risk endemic species, including the federally Endangered Bradshaw's lomatium (*Lomatium bradshawii*), Willamette daisy (*Erigeron decumbens* var. *decumbens*) and Fender's blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides fenderi*), and the federally Threatened Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus* ssp. *kincaidii*). In addition, there are 13 Federal Species of Concern (four plant and nine animal species) in the two conservation areas.

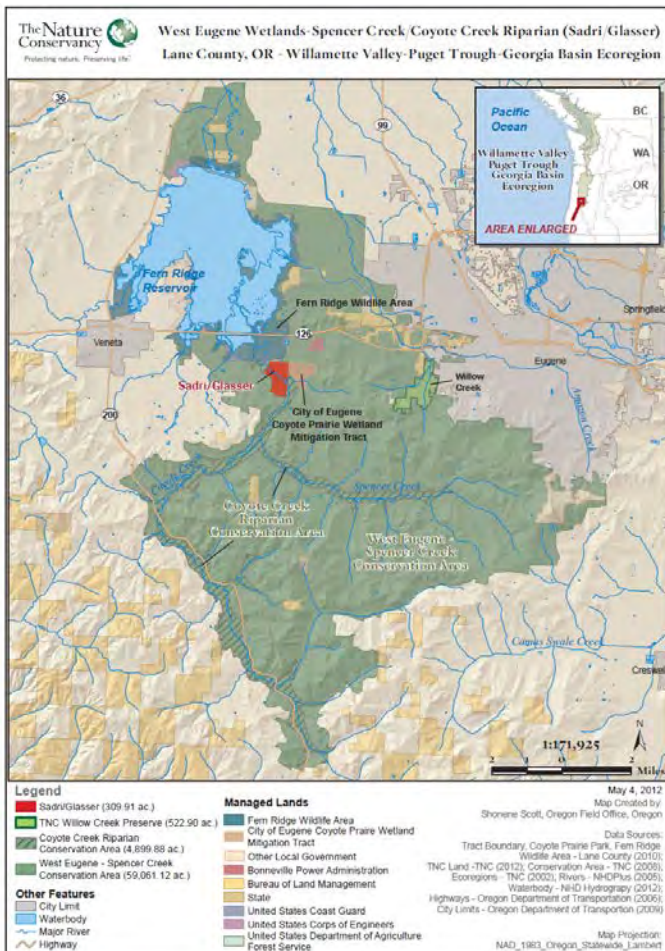
The Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased Coyote Creek South in 2012 with the intent of transferring the property to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) once the acquisition was approved by the ODFW Fish and Wildlife Commission in 2013. The majority of the property had been farmed for grass hay for many years. Currently, 96 acres are being leased for agricultural use, while 155 acres are in early stages of restoration.

ODFW's interest in the Coyote Creek South:

Coyote Creek South consists of 99 acres of riparian forest and 210 acres of restorable wet prairie. The acquisition targeted priority species and habitats identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, including providing habitat for foraging waterfowl, grassland birds and native cutthroat trout. Upon restoration the property also will provide opportunities for re-introduction of endangered Willamette Valley plant species associated with wet prairie, such as Bradshaw's lomatium and Willamette daisy.

Coyote Creek South is part of the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area. 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. Under ODFW ownership, the property is available for public recreational activities that are consistent with the management plan.

The property provides connectivity between adjacent protected areas, including the City of Eugene's Coyote Prairie wetland mitigation site and the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area.

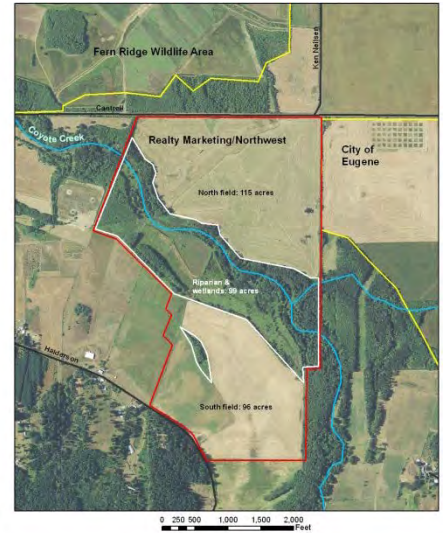


Acquisition process and funding:

The acquisition of this property was funded through the ODFW Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program. The funding was provided by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) through a fifteen 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 goals include restoration of the farm fields to wet prairie for western meadowlark and other grassland bird use, including seasonal use by waterfowl. In 2015, ODFW completed a management plan specific to the property that outlines ODFW's planned management and restoration actions. With more than 250 acres of hydric soils, complete restoration of Coyote Creek South will provide a mosaic of vernal pool, wet prairie and riparian forest habitats. Planned restoration of the site will result in approximately 210 acres of wet and upland native prairie, 36 acres of riparian forest and shrub and 14 acres of oak woodland. Restoration of the wet prairie would benefit the following species: Nelson's checker mallow, red-legged frog, western meadow lark, vesper sparrow, and streaked horned lark. Overall benefits to fish and wildlife in the surrounding areas are expected to increase substantially through restoration efforts.



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