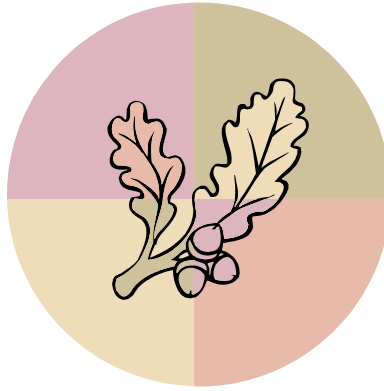


WORKSHOP SERIES



Native Woodland Conservation and Restoration: *Oregon white oak and riparian woodland communities*

This workshop series is meant to help local landowners understand our Willamette Valley native woodland ecosystems, particularly Oregon white oak communities and riparian bottomland (hardwood) forests, and how to manage them. We will focus on meeting conservation & restoration objectives, within the context of broader management planning and management activities, of course. The workshops will be a combination of classroom and field trips. The series will be a practical and comprehensive overview of issues, concepts and practices, with many illustrations in the field. It cannot provide all necessary technical information, but will introduce participants to appropriate sources of assistance. Topics will include management planning, woodland ecology, woodland wildlife and habitat, management activities (establishment, brush control, prescribed fire etc.) and sources of assistance available to landowners. By participating in this class, landowners should develop an understanding of ecological processes and management activities that will help them work with agencies and contractors to plan and oversee woodland conservation and restoration activities on their properties.

This class was first offered in the summer of 2004. Please contact Brad Withrow-Robinson for future classes. Phone 503-434-8914, Email Brad.w-r@oregonstate.edu

Sample class outline material

Setting Project Priorities

It always seems there are more projects to be done than time or money to do them. This seems especially true with restoration where the work, quite literally, may never be done. For this reason, it is important to set priorities. Choose your battles! Take on projects that will give you the greatest ecological benefit and/or, can be easily accomplished.

The prioritizing process needs to begin with a look at your broad goals for your property and your more specific conservation and restoration objectives. Then it is a matter of trying to get as much done as you can with the resources you have.

How do you choose? A good choice has as much to do with quality as quantity. It is important to think about the key functions (or sometimes composition) to be enhanced and also the ecological processes at work. A process such as succession may be your greatest ally in a riparian restoration project, and your most determined opponent in an oak savanna restoration project. Here are some things to think about:

- 1. Getting the most bang for your buck (fruit analogy)**
 - Look for the best “quality fruit”
(ie. desired function, structure, composition)

- Oak woodlands: Look for and conserve legacy structure (old open grown oaks) or composition (meadows, especially with high number of native species)
- Riparian (temperature limited): In an agricultural setting lacking adequate shade, conserve and enhance existing buffers. Prioritize planting frontage with no woody vegetation.
- Pick the low fruit first
 - Oak woodland: early successional situation; oak seedlings or saplings. Stocking control is easy. Tree form not yet determined. (beats earlier or later stage)
 - Riparian (temperature limited): Managed agricultural lands relatively free of highly competitive or hard to control species (vs. blackberry, reed canary grass infested).
- **Timeliness**
 - Closing windows of opportunity (do it or lose it)
 - Oak woodlands:
 - Legacy savanna trees being killed by competing hardwoods or conifers.
 - Young oak trees beginning to compete (crown differentiation)
 - Responsiveness of community

For oak woodlands, the farther along or more completely the succession process has proceeded, the more difficult it is likely to be to accomplish many restoration objectives.