

ABOUT US

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people.

In Oregon, the Conservancy owns or manages 48 nature preserves and has helped protect over 492,000 acres of important habitats, with support from 22,000 member households. Learn more at nature.org/Oregon



Large-flowered woolly meadowfoam (*Limnanthes floccosa* ssp.*grandiflora*), a federally-listed endangered species.

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SW OREGON NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOCUS on monitoring:

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with our monitoring projects this past field season! The spring and summer keeps us busy counting and mapping plants and assessing habitat changes. Now, in the fall, our field ecologist, Ed Hoover, spends long hours summarizing our monitoring data. We thought you'd like to take a peek at some of the monitoring results from the past few field seasons.

But first, why do we bother to monitor our conservation targets and how is this done? Since nearly one third of our volunteer hours add to our monitoring efforts, these are good questions to ask! Monitoring informs our ecological goals and actions, and can trigger important adjustments. For example, to know if we are meeting population goals for individual species, volunteers help count and map rare plants and weeds in transects, grid cells or across an entire preserve. Or, to decide if a spring burn is the appropriate management action to benefit mounded prairie/vernal pool habitat, volunteers help collect data using point intercept monitoring to assess change over time in plant abundance and composition-data that will determine when the next burn might occur. To learn more, consider joining a monitoring work party next spring!

In this edition of the newsletter you will find results from our population and distribution monitoring of large-flowered woolly meadowfoam at Agate Desert preserve [page 2] and teasel at Popcorn Swale preserve [page 3]. The figures presented are small so you'll have to "zoom in" using your document reader to see the details.

LEARN MORE

Volunteers assist our work in the field and office. To learn more about volunteer opportunities with The Nature Conservancy contact: Lyndia Hammer at lhammer@tnc.org or Molly Sullivan at msullivan@tnc.org or call our office (541) 770-7933

Thank you volunteers! Your hands-on assistance with rare plant surveys, weed management, preserve maintenance, research and writing, and administrative assistance truly extends and enhances our effective conservation work in southern Oregon.

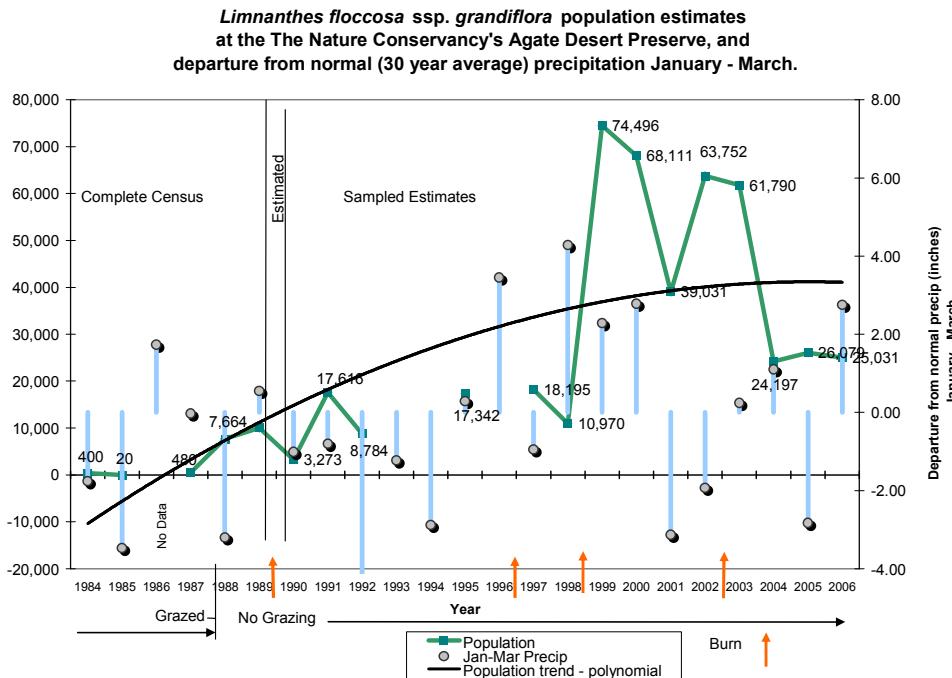
VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



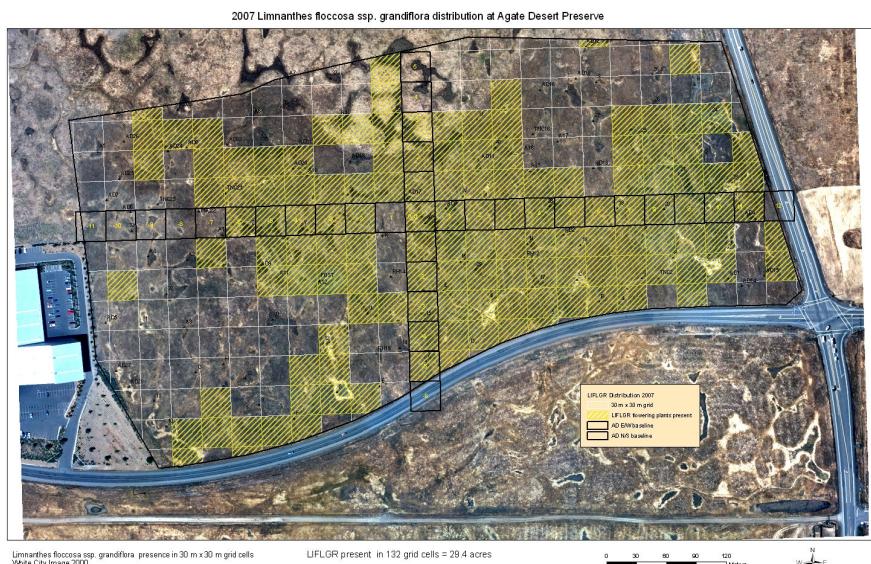
© Lyndia Hammer/TNC

The AmeriCorps Conservation Team (ACT) Roving Crew recently teamed up with volunteers at Popcorn Swale Preserve to remove invasive teasel. Pictured from left to right is: Christopher Patterson, Nikole Swaney, Christine Williams, volunteer Richard Sommer and Vincent Jansen. The “roving crew” is made up of Americorps members who have served with the Nature Conservancy at field offices throughout Oregon this year. Volunteer Richard Sommer, of Roseburg, is a vociferous defender of Diamond Lake, an active Native Plant Society member and a regular Nature Conservancy volunteer. Richard planted the first commercial vineyard, Hillcrest, in Oregon back in 1961, but nowadays gets his hands dirty by volunteering. Thanks for the help Richard! Special thanks to Kathy and Stan Vejtasa for hosting the roving crew this summer!

FOCUS on monitoring continued:



Volunteers counted individual meadowfoam plants in a subsample of the grid cells shown below to collect the data for this graph. The trend line shows a positive increase in meadowfoam at Agate Desert Preserve.



To create this 2007 distribution map of large flowered meadowfoam at Agate Desert Preserve, volunteers walked through all the grid cells and noted its presence or absence.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of projects all week long! Please contact us if you're interested in assisting with our ongoing efforts to remove invasive species and monitor rare plants on the preserves.

highlight: FIELD WORK



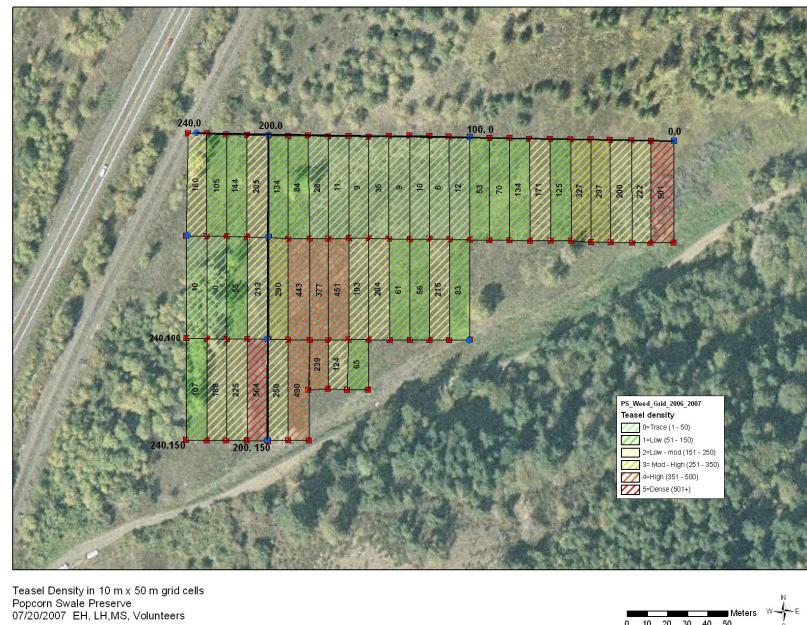
© Molly Sullivan/TNC

TEASEL-pulling ... Ugh! Now that's work you can really sink your teeth into, as longtime volunteer Bob Pollock demonstrates above.

For over 10 years volunteers and staff have pulled teasel plants in the seasonally wet prairie at the Popcorn Swale preserve, which is home to one of the last and largest remaining populations of the endangered rough popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys hirtus*).

Traits that make teasel a challenge to control include its biennial life cycle (both hard-to-find rosette and vigorous flowering stages), copious seed production (over 2000 seeds/plant), high seed germination rate (up to 80%) and the ability to re-grow flower heads after cutting like the mythical Medusa. The spiny seed heads were historically used to card wool!

FOCUS on monitoring continued: TEASEL density map



In 2006 and 2007 volunteers at Popcorn Swale Preserve counted and removed teasel plants and seed heads from the 10m x 30m grid cells shown above. The hard work that goes into preventing seed production each year may be paying off. From 2006 to 2007 teasel densities in the grid cells shown above decreased by 30 percent. In 2006, 12.5 cells contained high and dense numbers of teasel (colored orange and red), while only 6.5 cells contained high and dense levels of teasel in 2007.

nature calendar: KLAMATH MOUNTAINS

LAST SW OREGON WEEKEND WORK-PARTY OF THE SEASON!

Saturday, September 22, Popcorn Swale Preserve

A wildflower haven in the spring, this remnant of Umpqua Valley wet prairie near Roseburg contains tufted hairgrass and one-sided sedge/meadow barley communities and several rare plants. Help us sow native seed and remove invasive species.

For information on other Nature Conservancy work parties around the state go to www.nature.org/volunteer and select Oregon.

Salmon Viewing & Hikes

**October 20th and 28th; 10am-12pm at Fish Hatchery Park
& 2-5 pm at Rainie Falls.**

Join Siskiyou Project ecologist Rich Nawa and learn the Chinook salmon life cycle and habitat needs. Contact the Siskiyou Project (541) 592-4459

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