

## ACEC Screening Summary October 5, 2010

**Name:** Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak, and Pine ACEC  
Blue Mountain

**Location:** See Map

**Acres:** approximately 62 acres

**Primary Values:** Vegetation, Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species,  
Scenic, Hazard

From the ACEC nomination: *This site is a complement to the set of TNC's Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak and Pine ACEC nominations as it contains many of the same values. TNC's Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak and Pine ACEC nomination stated that the list of sites they included was not a complete list of sites warranting ACEC status, the designation of these sites would round out the set of TNC sites. The nomination includes habitat for sensitive species and species uncommon on the Eugene District. The designation would facilitate the protection of natural processes that maintain these uncommon and diverse ecological systems. These sites provide habitat for threatened or sensitive plant species and/or rare, endemic, or relic plant communities that are under-represented in protected areas around the Willamette and Eugene District. Without management and protection these sites are vulnerable to damage and alteration of ecological processes for logging, weeds and inappropriate recreation use.*

### **Site Summary:**

The ACEC screening team visited the site on October 5, 2010. The site is dominated by unmanaged Douglas-fir stands with numerous rock outcrops and meadows.

### **Criteria Evaluation:**

#### **Relevance**

**1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).**

The site has significant scenic value with extraordinary views. The cliffs are visible from Row River Road.

**2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).**

The site has extensive meadows, rocky balds, and talus slopes, with scattered Oregon white oak along the fringes of the meadows. The plant community includes many plant

species that are uncommon on the District and are more typically found east of the Cascade Mountains or in the Columbia Gorge.

**3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).**

The numerous meadows appear to be heavily influenced by the rocky conditions and thin soil. These conditions appear to have contributed to an unusual floristic composition of the patch.

**4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.**

The cliffs at Blue Mountain are a natural hazard. The main cliff appears to be more than 100' high. The cliffs are directly accessible off a BLM road. The edge is sudden and dangerous. The site has a history of dumping, shooting, and driving cars over the cliff. Other cliffs on the district have attracted rock climbers, hikers and wildflower enthusiasts.

## **Importance**

**1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.**

The meadows and rocky balds are extensive and have unusual floristic diversity, which provides significant qualities compared to similar resources within the Willamette Valley region.

**2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.**

The scenic quality of the Blue Mountain cliffs and the view are exemplary. The meadows and rocky balds do not appear to be vulnerable to adverse change through forest succession. However, the unusual floristic diversity on the cliffs, meadows, and rocky balds are vulnerable to disturbance because of the thin soils, which can easily be disturbed by recreation use. In addition, the meadows are vulnerable to invasion by non-native species.

**3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.**

The site has not been recognized as warranting protection.

**4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.**

The threat to safety posed by the cliffs warrant highlighting to avoid accidents. The site would pose a hazard during firefighting, which warrants highlighting on fire resource advisor maps.

**5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.**

The cliffs, rocks, and steep slopes pose a threat to the safety of hikers and hunters that may use the site, and pose potential hazards in firefighting. The history of dumping, shooting, and driving cars over the cliffs poses a threat to the safety of users of the site.

**Special Management Attention Needed to address:**

Special management is needed to avoid inappropriate recreation use that would damage meadows and lichen communities on rock faces. Special management is needed to provide signs to alert visitors of the dangerous cliffs or to limit access to dangerous areas in the site, especially to reduce damaging uses such as dumping. Special management may be needed to limit access to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species. Special management is needed to withdraw the site from mineral entry; the geologic conditions that have created the relevant and important values make the site at risk of quarry development.

**Recommendations:** The site meets criteria for relevance and importance, and special management is needed to maintain the relevant and important values. Therefore, the site should receive interim management as a potential ACEC at this time and should be designated as an ACEC in an appropriate future planning action.

**Screening Team:**

Richard Hardt	Ecologist, Eugene District
Nancy Sawtelle	Botanist/Plant Ecologist, Eugene District
Cheshire Mayrsohn	Botanist, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Christie Hardenbrook	Planner, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Jerry Richeson	Multi-Resource Staff Leader, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Clint Foster	Forester, Siuslaw Resource Area

**Concurrence:**

/s/ William O'Sullivan  
William O'Sullivan  
Upper Willamette Field Manager

2/17/11  
date

/s/ Virginia Grilley  
Virginia Grilley  
District Manager, Eugene District

2/22/11  
date

## ACEC Screening Summary August 17, 2010

**Name:** Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak, and Pine ACEC  
Coburg Hills North, Section 20

**Location:** See Map

**Acres:** approximately 120 acres

**Primary Values:** Vegetation, Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species,  
Cultural, Scenic

From the ACEC nomination: *Individually and in total these sites will protect, given appropriate management, numerous examples of important wildlife resources, including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity. Designation of these areas would facilitate the protection of natural processes that maintains these high-priority ecological systems. Many of these sites provide habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are greatly under-represented in protected areas in the Willamette Valley. Proper management of these sites will reduce the risk and impacts of catastrophic wildfire on surrounding landowners and local communities.*

*This criterion is also relevant to our nomination because the importance of fires to maintain and revitalize these habitats, as well as (in the case of prairies occurring on shallow soils over bedrock), the existence of unique soil conditions that have helped prairie, savanna, and oak/pine habitats to persist over the past 150 years.*

### **Site Summary:**

The ACEC screening team visited the site on August 17, 2010. The site is dominated by second-growth Douglas-fir and grand fir stands. There are two patches of Oregon white oak and Oregon ash in low topographic positions. The site includes several additional groups of oaks or isolated individual oak trees, primarily on ridges adjacent to recently-harvested areas or meadows on private lands.

### **Criteria Evaluation:**

#### **Relevance**

**1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).**

There is no evidence of any significant historic, cultural, or scenic value and no record of any cultural resources at or near this site.

**2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).**

The patches and groups of oaks at this site are too small, too isolated, and too integrated with the adjacent conifer forest to provide substantial habitat for oak-dependant species. While the oak and oak/ash patches provide some contribution to species diversity in the largely conifer-dominated landscape, the extent of these patches is too small to provide habitat essential for maintaining species diversity.

**3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).**

The two oak/ash patches appear to be heavily influenced by unusual soil and hydrological conditions that result in extreme hydrological variation, with standing or flowing water in the winter and very dry conditions in the summer. These conditions appear to have contributed to an unusual floristic composition of the patch, combining species adapted to wet sites with species adapted to dry sites.

**4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.**

There are no natural hazards at this site.

### **Importance**

**1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.**

The oak patches are too small and isolated to have locally significant qualities compared to similar resources.

**2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.**

The oak patches are too small and isolated to be considered irreplaceable or exemplary. The oak trees on the site are experiencing competition from conifers. However, loss of oaks from the site through forest succession will be slow and is not imminent because of the influence of soil and hydrological characteristics in the oak/ash patches and because of the influence of poor soils and adjacent timber harvest along the property lines.

**3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.**

The site has not been recognized as warranting protection.

**4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.**

There are no concerns about safety and public welfare associated with the site.

**5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.**

The site does not pose a threat to human life and safety or to property.

**Special Management Attention Needed to address:**

Because the evaluation concludes that the site does not have both relevant and important values, the need for special management attention is not assessed here.

**Recommendations:** This site meets one criterion for relevance (a natural process of system), but does not meet any criteria for importance. Therefore, the site does not require interim management as a potential ACEC at this time and should be dropped from consideration as an ACEC in an appropriate future planning action.

**Screening Team:**

Richard Hardt	Ecologist, Eugene District
Nancy Sawtelle	Botanist/Plant Ecologist, Eugene District
Cheshire Mayrsohn	Botanist, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Christie Hardenbrook	Planner, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Jerry Richeson	Multi-Resource Staff Leader, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Clint Foster	Forester, Siuslaw Resource Area

**Concurrence:**

/s/ William O'Sullivan  
William O'Sullivan  
Upper Willamette Field Manager

2/17/11  
date

/s/ Virginia Grilley  
Virginia Grilley  
District Manager, Eugene District

2/22/11  
date

## ACEC Screening Summary August 24, 2010

**Name:** Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak, and Pine ACEC  
Coburg Hills North, Section 29

**Location:** See Map

**Acres:** approximately 35 acres

**Primary Values:** Vegetation, Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species,  
Cultural, Scenic

From the ACEC nomination: *Individually and in total these sites will protect, given appropriate management, numerous examples of important wildlife resources, including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity. Designation of these areas would facilitate the protection of natural processes that maintains these high-priority ecological systems. Many of these sites provide habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are greatly under-represented in protected areas in the Willamette Valley. Proper management of these sites will reduce the risk and impacts of catastrophic wildfire on surrounding landowners and local communities.*

*This criterion is also relevant to our nomination because the importance of fires to maintain and revitalize these habitats, as well as (in the case of prairies occurring on shallow soils over bedrock), the existence of unique soil conditions that have helped prairie, savanna, and oak/pine habitats to persist over the past 150 years.*

### **Site Summary:**

The ACEC screening team visited the site on August 24, 2010. The site is dominated by second-growth Douglas-fir, grand fir, and bigleaf maple stands.

### **Criteria Evaluation:**

#### **Relevance**

**1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).**

There is no evidence of any significant historic, cultural, or scenic value and no record of any cultural resources at or near this site.

**2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).**

There are no oak, pine, or prairie habitats at this site.

**3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).**

There are no oak, pine, or prairie habitats at this site.

**4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.**

There are no natural hazards at this site.

### **Importance**

**1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.**

There are no oak, pine, or prairie habitats at this site.

**2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.**

There are no oak, pine, or prairie habitats at this site.

**3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.**

The site has not been recognized as warranting protection.

**4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.**

There are no concerns about safety and public welfare associated with the site.

**5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.**

The site does not pose a threat to human life and safety or to property.

### **Special Management Attention Needed to address:**

Because the evaluation concludes that the site lacks relevant and important values, the need for special management attention is not assessed here.

**Recommendations:** The site lacks the relevant and important values which are the basis for the nomination. Therefore, the site does not require interim management as a potential

ACEC at this time and should be dropped from consideration as an ACEC in an appropriate future planning action.

**Screening Team:**

Richard Hardt Ecologist, Eugene District  
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**Concurrence:**

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2/17/11  
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/s/ Virginia Grilley  
Virginia Grilley  
District Manager, Eugene District

2/22/11  
date

## ACEC Screening Summary August 31, 2010

**Name:** Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak, and Pine ACEC  
Cougar Mountain

**Location:** See Map

**Acres:** approximately 80 acres

**Primary Values:** Vegetation, Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species,  
Cultural, Scenic

From the ACEC nomination: *Individually and in total these sites will protect, given appropriate management, numerous examples of important wildlife resources, including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity. Designation of these areas would facilitate the protection of natural processes that maintains these high-priority ecological systems. Many of these sites provide habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are greatly under-represented in protected areas in the Willamette Valley. Proper management of these sites will reduce the risk and impacts of catastrophic wildfire on surrounding landowners and local communities.*

*This criterion is also relevant to our nomination because the importance of fires to maintain and revitalize these habitats, as well as (in the case of prairies occurring on shallow soils over bedrock), the existence of unique soil conditions that have helped prairie, savanna, and oak/pine habitats to persist over the past 150 years.*

### **Site Summary:**

The ACEC screening team visited the site on August 31, 2010. The site is dominated by second-growth Douglas-fir and grand fir stands.

### **Criteria Evaluation:**

#### **Relevance**

**1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).**

There is no evidence of any significant historic, cultural, or scenic value and no record of any cultural resources at or near this site.

**2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).**

There is a single patch of oak habitat, approximately 2 acres in size in the northeast end of the nominated area. This patch is too small to provide substantial habitat for oak-dependant species. While the oak patch provides some contribution to species diversity in the largely conifer-dominated landscape, the extent of this patch is too small to provide habitat essential for maintaining species diversity.

**3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).**

The oak patch appears to be heavily influenced by unusual soil and hydrological conditions that result in extreme hydrological variation. These conditions appear to have contributed to an unusual floristic composition of the patch, and may be contributing to the mortality of competing conifers near the oaks.

**4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.**

There are no natural hazards at this site.

### **Importance**

**1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.**

The oak patch is too small to have locally significant qualities compared to similar resources.

**2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.**

The oak patch is too small to be considered irreplaceable or exemplary. Many conifers in the oak patch have died, and loss of oaks from the site through forest succession is not imminent because of the apparent influence of soil and hydrological characteristics.

**3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.**

The site has not been recognized as warranting protection.

**4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.**

There are no concerns about safety and public welfare associated with the site.

**5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.**

The site does not pose a threat to human life and safety or to property.

**Special Management Attention Needed to address:**

No special management attention is needed. The oak patch is likely maintained by the influence of soil and hydrological characteristics. If timber harvest were planned in the adjacent stand, the removal of few competing conifers in the oak patch or the conifers adjacent to the oak patch would benefit the oaks.

**Recommendations:** This site meets one criterion for relevance (a natural process of system), but does not meet any criteria for importance. Therefore, the site does not require interim management as a potential ACEC at this time and should be dropped from consideration as an ACEC in an appropriate future planning action.

**Screening Team:**

Richard Hardt	Ecologist, Eugene District
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Clint Foster	Forester, Siuslaw Resource Area

**Concurrence:**

/s/ William O'Sullivan  
William O'Sullivan  
Upper Willamette Field Manager

2/17/11  
date

/s/ Virginia Grilley  
Virginia Grilley  
District Manager, Eugene District

2/22/11  
date

## ACEC Screening Summary September 21, 2010

**Name:** Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak, and Pine ACEC  
Dahl Rock

**Location:** See Map

**Acres:** approximately 181 acres

**Primary Values:** Vegetation, Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species,  
Scenic, Hazard

From the ACEC nomination: *This site is a complement to the set of TNC's Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak and Pine ACEC nominations as it contains many of the same values. TNC's Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak and Pine ACEC nomination stated that the list of sites they included was not a complete list of sites warranting ACEC status, the designation of these sites would round out the set of TNC sites. The nomination includes habitat for sensitive species and species uncommon on the Eugene District. The designation would facilitate the protection of natural processes that maintain these uncommon and diverse ecological systems. These sites provide habitat for threatened or sensitive plant species and/or rare, endemic, or relic plant communities that are under-represented in protected areas around the Willamette and Eugene District. Without management and protection these sites are vulnerable to damage and alteration of ecological processes for logging, weeds and inappropriate recreation use.*

### **Site Summary:**

The ACEC screening team visited the site on September 21, 2010. The site is dominated by unmanaged Douglas-fir stands with numerous rock outcrops and meadows.

### **Criteria Evaluation:**

#### **Relevance**

**1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).**

The site has significant scenic value. Dahl Rock has scenic values with extraordinary views of the rugged Calapooyia divide. The view from the top is nearly a 270 degree view of the divide. This may be one of the best view spots on the district. The cliffs are visible from the main Mosby Creek Road.

**2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).**

The site has a large and vigorous population of canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*). The site is one of the northernmost sites in the species' range. It also has scattered individuals of Oregon white oaks. The site includes numerous meadows and rocky balds. The plant community is more similar to east of the Cascade Mountains or the Siskiyou Mountains, with small rocky meadows of Roemer's or red fescue and prairie junegrass. The rocky outcrops have a rich lichen flora also more similar to the eastside or Southern Oregon.

Peregrine falcons nest at the site. This is only the second known peregrine nest on the Eugene District.

**3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).**

The numerous meadows and oak patches appear to be heavily influenced by the rocky conditions and thin soil. These conditions appear to have contributed to an unusual floristic composition of the patch.

**4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.**

Dahl Rock is a natural hazard. The cliffs are estimated to be 80-100' high. The cliffs are accessible by a casual trail off a BLM road. The edge is sudden and dangerous. The poor access and remote location would make a rescue difficult. Other cliffs on the district have attracted rock climbers, hikers and wildflower enthusiasts.

## **Importance**

**1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.**

The oak patches, meadows, and rocky balds are of moderate extent and include many mature oaks of apparent vigor. The canyon live oak population at the site includes abundant young trees, apparently regenerating successfully under the canopy of the Douglas-fir stand. This large and vigorous population of canyon live oak at the edge of its range and numerous meadows and rocky balds with unusual floristic diversity provide significant qualities compared to similar resources within the Willamette Valley region.

**2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.**

The scenic quality of the Dahl Rocks cliffs and the view are exemplary. Suitable nesting conditions for peregrine falcons are rare in the region. Peregrine falcons are vulnerable to noise disturbance during nesting. The population of canyon live oak is rare and

exemplary for this region. The oak patches are vulnerable to adverse change through forest succession, although this change will be slow because of the poor, thin soils limit conifer growth. Also, the canyon live oak is apparently reproducing successfully under the Douglas-fir canopy in adjacent stands. The unusual floristic diversity on the cliffs, meadows, and rocky balds are vulnerable to disturbance because of the thin soils, which can easily be disturbed by recreation use. In addition, the meadows are vulnerable to invasion by non-native species.

**3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.**

The site has not been recognized as warranting protection.

**4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.**

The threat to safety posed by the cliffs warrant highlighting to avoid accidents. The site would pose a hazard during firefighting, which warrants highlighting on fire resource advisor maps.

**5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.**

The cliffs, rocks, and steep slopes pose a threat to the safety of hikers and hunters that may use the site, and pose potential hazards in firefighting.

**Special Management Attention Needed to address:**

Special management is needed to limit or avoid disturbance of peregrine falcons during nesting. Special management is needed to avoid inappropriate recreation use that would damage meadows and lichen communities on rock faces. Special management is needed to provide signs to alert visitors of the dangerous cliffs or to limit access to dangerous areas in the site. Special management is needed to reduce the competition from conifers in and adjacent to the oak patches. Killing conifer trees will be necessary in the oak patches. The site is within the Late-Successional Reserve; the conifer removal necessary to maintain the relevant and important values at this site may be problematic within the Late-Successional Reserve land use allocation. Special management may be needed to limit access to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species. Special management is needed to withdraw the site from mineral entry; the geologic conditions that have created the relevant and important values make the site at risk of quarry development.

**Recommendations:** The site meets criteria for relevance and importance, and special management is needed to maintain the relevant and important values. Therefore, the site should receive interim management as a potential ACEC at this time and should be designated as an ACEC in an appropriate future planning action.

**Screening Team:**

Richard Hardt	Ecologist, Eugene District
Nancy Sawtelle	Botanist/Plant Ecologist, Eugene District
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**Concurrence:**

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William O'Sullivan  
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2/17/11  
date

/s/ Virginia Grilley  
Virginia Grilley  
District Manager, Eugene District

2/22/11  
date

## ACEC Screening Summary October 12, 2010

**Name:** Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak, and Pine ACEC  
Eagles' Rest, Section 1

**Location:** See Map

**Acres:** approximately 11 acres

**Primary Values:** Vegetation, Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species,  
Scenic, Hazard

From the ACEC nomination: *This site is a complement to the set of TNC's Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak and Pine ACEC nominations as it contains many of the same values. TNC's Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak and Pine ACEC nomination stated that the list of sites they included was not a complete list of sites warranting ACEC status, the designation of these sites would round out the set of TNC sites. The nomination includes habitat for sensitive species and species uncommon on the Eugene District. The designation would facilitate the protection of natural processes that maintain these uncommon and diverse ecological systems. These sites provide habitat for threatened or sensitive plant species and/or rare, endemic, or relic plant communities that are under-represented in protected areas around the Willamette and Eugene District. Without management and protection these sites are vulnerable to damage and alteration of ecological processes for logging, weeds and inappropriate recreation use.*

### **Site Summary:**

The ACEC screening team visited the site on October 12, 2010. The site has a small meadow bisected by the 19-1-33.1 Road, surrounded by unmanaged Douglas-fir forest.

### **Criteria Evaluation:**

#### **Relevance**

**1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).**

There is no evidence of any significant historic, cultural, or scenic value and no record of any cultural resources at or near this site.

**2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).**

The site has a small meadow (approximately one acre in size), which includes a population of Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus* ssp. *kincaidii*), a federally threatened

species. The meadow is too small and isolated to provide substantial habitat for prairie-dependent species. While the meadow provides some contribution to species diversity in the largely conifer-dominated landscape, the extent of this meadow is too small to provide habitat essential for maintaining species diversity.

**3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).**

The meadow appears to be influenced by the hot, dry summer growing conditions. The surrounding forest appears to be typical of Douglas-fir forests on dry sites in the Willamette Valley foothills.

**4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.**

There are no natural hazards at this site.

### **Importance**

**1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.**

The meadow is too small and isolated to have locally significant qualities compared to similar resources. The surrounding Douglas-fir forest does not have special worth or distinctiveness.

**2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.**

The meadow is vulnerable to adverse change from succession to conifers and invasion by non-native species.

**3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.**

The site has not been recognized as warranting protection.

**4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.**

There are no concerns about safety and public welfare associated with the site.

**5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.**

The site does not pose a threat to human life and safety or to property.

### **Special Management Attention Needed to address:**

Because the evaluation concludes that the site does not have relevant and important values, the need for special management attention is not assessed here.

**Recommendations:** The site does not meet criteria for relevance and importance. Therefore, the site does not require interim management as a potential ACEC at this time and should be dropped from consideration as an ACEC in an appropriate future planning action.

**Screening Team:**

Richard Hardt	Ecologist, Eugene District
Nancy Sawtelle	Botanist/Plant Ecologist, Eugene District
Cheshire Mayrsohn	Botanist, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Christie Hardenbrook	Planner, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Jerry Richeson	Multi-Resource Staff Leader, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Clint Foster	Forester, Siuslaw Resource Area

**Concurrence:**

<u>/s/ William O'Sullivan</u>	<u>2/17/11</u>
William O'Sullivan	date
Upper Willamette Field Manager	

<u>/s/ Virginia Grilley</u>	<u>2/22/11</u>
Virginia Grilley	date
District Manager, Eugene District	

## ACEC Screening Summary October 12, 2010

**Name:** Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak, and Pine ACEC  
Eagles' Rest, Section 3

**Location:** See Map

**Acres:** approximately 8 acres

**Primary Values:** Vegetation, Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species,  
Scenic, Hazard

From the ACEC nomination: *This site is a complement to the set of TNC's Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak and Pine ACEC nominations as it contains many of the same values. TNC's Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak and Pine ACEC nomination stated that the list of sites they included was not a complete list of sites warranting ACEC status, the designation of these sites would round out the set of TNC sites. The nomination includes habitat for sensitive species and species uncommon on the Eugene District. The designation would facilitate the protection of natural processes that maintain these uncommon and diverse ecological systems. These sites provide habitat for threatened or sensitive plant species and/or rare, endemic, or relic plant communities that are under-represented in protected areas around the Willamette and Eugene District. Without management and protection these sites are vulnerable to damage and alteration of ecological processes for logging, weeds and inappropriate recreation use.*

### **Site Summary:**

The ACEC screening team visited the site on October 12, 2010. The site has wet meadows intergraded with Oregon white oak and Oregon ash woodland.

### **Criteria Evaluation:**

#### **Relevance**

**1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).**

There is no evidence of any significant historic, cultural, or scenic value and no record of any cultural resources at or near this site.

**2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).**

The oak/ash woodland at this site is of moderate extent, several acres in size. The moderate extent of this woodland, together with nearby similar patches of woodland on

private land, may be sufficient to provide habitat essential for maintaining species diversity. One of the meadows at the site supports a population of Hitchcock's blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium hitchcockii*), a candidate species for listed under the Endangered Species Act.

**3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).**

The meadows and oak/ash woodland appear to be influenced by the wet winter soil conditions.

**4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.**

There are no natural hazards at this site.

### **Importance**

**1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.**

The oak/ash woodland is of moderate extent and include many oaks of large diameter and apparently great age, providing significant qualities compared to similar resources.

**2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.**

The oak/ash woodland is of moderate extent and includes oaks of large diameter and apparently great age, which make them exemplary. The woodland is vulnerable to adverse change through forest succession and is currently being invaded by Douglas-fir trees. The meadows are vulnerable to adverse change from succession to conifers and invasion by non-native species, especially non-native blackberries.

**3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.**

The site has not been recognized as warranting protection.

**4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.**

There are no concerns about safety and public welfare associated with the site.

**5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.**

The site does not pose a threat to human life and safety or to property.

### **Special Management Attention Needed to address:**

Special management is needed to reduce the competition from conifers in the woodland and adjacent to the meadows. Continued maintenance will be needed to prevent invasion of the meadows by non-native shrubs, such as blackberry and scotch broom. Killing conifer trees will be necessary in the oak patches and adjacent to the meadows to maintain the relevant and important values. However, conifer removal necessary to maintain the relevant and important values at these sites may be problematic within the existing land use allocations.

**Recommendations:** The site meets the criteria for relevance and importance, and special management is needed to maintain the relevant and important values. Therefore, the site should receive interim management as a potential ACEC at this time and should be designated as an ACEC in an appropriate future planning action.

**Screening Team:**

Richard Hardt	Ecologist, Eugene District
Nancy Sawtelle	Botanist/Plant Ecologist, Eugene District
Cheshire Mayrsohn	Botanist, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Christie Hardenbrook	Planner, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Jerry Richeson	Multi-Resource Staff Leader, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Clint Foster	Forester, Siuslaw Resource Area

**Concurrence:**

/s/ William O'Sullivan  
William O'Sullivan  
Upper Willamette Field Manager

2/17/11  
date

/s/ Virginia Grilley  
Virginia Grilley  
District Manager, Eugene District

2/22/11  
date

## ACEC Screening Summary October 12, 2010

**Name:** Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak, and Pine ACEC  
Eagles' Rest, Section 12

**Location:** See Map

**Acres:** approximately 62 acres

**Primary Values:** Vegetation, Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species,  
Scenic, Hazard

From the ACEC nomination: *This site is a complement to the set of TNC's Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak and Pine ACEC nominations as it contains many of the same values. TNC's Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak and Pine ACEC nomination stated that the list of sites they included was not a complete list of sites warranting ACEC status, the designation of these sites would round out the set of TNC sites. The nomination includes habitat for sensitive species and species uncommon on the Eugene District. The designation would facilitate the protection of natural processes that maintain these uncommon and diverse ecological systems. These sites provide habitat for threatened or sensitive plant species and/or rare, endemic, or relic plant communities that are under-represented in protected areas around the Willamette and Eugene District. Without management and protection these sites are vulnerable to damage and alteration of ecological processes for logging, weeds and inappropriate recreation use.*

### **Site Summary:**

The ACEC screening team visited the site on October 12, 2010. The site is dominated by unmanaged Douglas-fir stands with numerous rock outcrops and meadows.

### **Criteria Evaluation:**

#### **Relevance**

**1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).**

The site has significant scenic value, with extraordinary views of the surrounding landscape.

**2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).**

The site includes numerous meadows and rocky balds. The balds have shrub communities dominated by manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*) and occasional

shrubby Oregon white oak. The rocky outcrops have a rich lichen flora with uncommon lichen species.

**3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).**

The meadows and balds appear to be heavily influenced by the rocky conditions and thin soil. These conditions appear to have contributed to an unusual floristic composition of the site. The cliff faces support a population of rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), which is not known from elsewhere on the Eugene District and is rare west of the Cascade Mountains.

**4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.**

The cliffs at Eagles' Rest are a natural hazard. The cliffs are estimated to be approximately 100' high. The cliffs are accessible by a developed and well-used trail. The cliffs on the district have attracted rock climbers, hikers and wildflower enthusiasts.

## **Importance**

**1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.**

The meadows, rocky balds, and cliff faces are of moderate extent and have unusual floristic diversity, which provide significant qualities compared to similar resources within the Willamette Valley region.

**2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.**

The scenic quality of the Eagles' Rest cliffs and the view are exemplary. The rocky balds and meadows are vulnerable to adverse change through forest succession, although this change will be slow because of the poor, thin soils limit conifer growth. The unusual floristic diversity on the cliffs, meadows, and rocky balds are vulnerable to disturbance because of the thin soils, which can easily be disturbed by recreation use. In addition, the meadows and rocky balds are vulnerable to invasion by non-native species.

**3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.**

The site has not been recognized as warranting protection.

**4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.**

The threat to safety posed by the cliffs warrant highlighting to avoid accidents. The site would pose a hazard during firefighting, which warrants highlighting on fire resource advisor maps.

**5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.**

The cliffs, rocks, and steep slopes pose a threat to the safety of hikers and hunters that may use the site, and pose potential hazards in firefighting.

**Special Management Attention Needed to address:**

Special management is needed to avoid inappropriate recreation use that would damage meadows and lichen communities on rock faces. Special management is needed to provide signs to alert visitors of the dangerous cliffs or to limit access to dangerous areas in the site. Special management may be needed to limit access to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species. Special management is needed to withdraw the site from mineral entry; the geologic conditions that have created the relevant and important values make the site at risk of quarry development.

**Recommendations:** The site meets criteria for relevance and importance, and special management is needed to maintain the relevant and important values. Therefore, the site should receive interim management as a potential ACEC at this time and should be designated as an ACEC in an appropriate future planning action.

**Screening Team:**

Richard Hardt	Ecologist, Eugene District
Nancy Sawtelle	Botanist/Plant Ecologist, Eugene District
Cheshire Mayrsohn	Botanist, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Christie Hardenbrook	Planner, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Jerry Richeson	Multi-Resource Staff Leader, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Clint Foster	Forester, Siuslaw Resource Area

**Concurrence:**

<u>/s/ William O'Sullivan</u>	<u>2/17/11</u>
William O'Sullivan	date
Upper Willamette Field Manager	

<u>/s/ Virginia Grilley</u>	<u>2/22/11</u>
Virginia Grilley	date
District Manager, Eugene District	

## ACEC Screening Summary September 14, 2010

**Name:** Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak, and Pine ACEC  
Kelly Creek

**Location:** See Map

**Acres:** approximately 133 acres

**Primary Values:** Vegetation, Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species,  
Cultural, Scenic

From the ACEC nomination: *Individually and in total these sites will protect, given appropriate management, numerous examples of important wildlife resources, including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity. Designation of these areas would facilitate the protection of natural processes that maintains these high-priority ecological systems. Many of these sites provide habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are greatly under-represented in protected areas in the Willamette Valley. Proper management of these sites will reduce the risk and impacts of catastrophic wildfire on surrounding landowners and local communities.*

*This criterion is also relevant to our nomination because the importance of fires to maintain and revitalize these habitats, as well as (in the case of prairies occurring on shallow soils over bedrock), the existence of unique soil conditions that have helped prairie, savanna, and oak/pine habitats to persist over the past 150 years.*

### **Site Summary:**

The ACEC screening team visited the site on September 14, 2010. The site is dominated by second-growth Douglas-fir and grand fir stands. There are two patches of Oregon white oak in low topographic positions, west of Road 20-4-15. The site also includes occasional isolated individual oak trees.

### **Criteria Evaluation:**

#### **Relevance**

**1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).**

There is no evidence of any significant historic, cultural, or scenic value and no record of any cultural resources at or near this site.

**2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).**

The two patches oaks at this site are both of moderate extent, several acres in size. The moderate extent of these patches, together with nearby similar patches on private land, may be sufficient to provide habitat essential for maintaining species diversity.

**3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).**

The two oak patches appear to be heavily influenced by unusual soil and hydrological conditions that result in extreme hydrological variation, with standing or flowing water in the winter and very dry conditions in the summer. These conditions appear to have contributed to an unusual floristic composition of the patch.

**4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.**

There are no natural hazards at this site.

## **Importance**

**1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.**

The oak patches are of moderate extent and include many oaks of large diameter and apparently great age, providing significant qualities compared to similar resources.

**2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.**

The oak patches are of moderate extent and include oaks of large diameter and apparently great age, which make them exemplary. Both patches are, to some extent, vulnerable to adverse change through forest succession. In the center of the patch to the south, the loss of oaks from the site through forest succession will be slow and is not imminent because of the influence of soil and hydrological characteristics. However, the oak trees at the margins of the patch are experiencing competition from conifers. The patch to the north is experiencing competition from conifers more extensively, and most of the patch is vulnerable to more imminent adverse change from forest succession.

**3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.**

The site has not been recognized as warranting protection.

**4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.**

There are no concerns about safety and public welfare associated with the site.

**5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.**

The site does not pose a threat to human life and safety or to property.

**Special Management Attention Needed to address:**

Special management is needed to reduce the competition from conifers in and adjacent to the oak patches. Killing conifer trees and possibly prescribed burning will be necessary in the oak patches. Both patches are likely wholly or mostly within Riparian Reserves, and the conifer removal necessary to maintain the relevant and important values at these sites may be problematic within the Riparian Reserve land use allocation.

**Recommendations:** The two oak patches meet criteria for relevance and importance, and special management is needed to maintain the relevant and important values. Therefore, the oak patches should receive interim management as a potential ACEC at this time and should be designated as an ACEC in an appropriate future planning action. Much of the nominated area lacks relevant and important values; interim management and eventual designation as an ACEC should be focused on the two oak patches and the immediately surrounding area that requires special management to maintain the relevant and important values. The boundaries of the designated areas should be determined by an interdisciplinary team, based on the special management needed to maintain the relevant and important values.

**Screening Team:**

Richard Hardt	Ecologist, Eugene District
Nancy Sawtelle	Botanist/Plant Ecologist, Eugene District
Cheshire Mayrsohn	Botanist, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Christie Hardenbrook	Planner, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Jerry Richeson	Multi-Resource Staff Leader, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Clint Foster	Forester, Siuslaw Resource Area

**Concurrence:**

/s/ William Hatton  
William Hatton  
Siuslaw Field Manager

11/8/10  
date

/s/ Virginia Grilley  
Virginia Grilley  
District Manager, Eugene District

2/22/11  
date

## ACEC Screening Summary October 19, 2010

**Name:** Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak, and Pine ACEC  
Marten Bald

**Location:** See Map

**Acres:** approximately 40 acres

**Primary Values:** Vegetation, Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species,  
Scenic, Hazard

From the ACEC nomination: *This site is a complement to the set of TNC's Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak and Pine ACEC nominations as it contains many of the same values. TNC's Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak and Pine ACEC nomination stated that the list of sites they included was not a complete list of sites warranting ACEC status, the designation of these sites would round out the set of TNC sites. The nomination includes habitat for sensitive species and species uncommon on the Eugene District. The designation would facilitate the protection of natural processes that maintain these uncommon and diverse ecological systems. These sites provide habitat for threatened or sensitive plant species and/or rare, endemic, or relic plant communities that are under-represented in protected areas around the Willamette and Eugene District. Without management and protection these sites are vulnerable to damage and alteration of ecological processes for logging, weeds and inappropriate recreation use.*

### **Site Summary:**

The ACEC screening team visited the site on October 19, 2010. The site is dominated by Douglas-fir stands surrounding a single rocky bald with oaks.

### **Criteria Evaluation:**

#### **Relevance**

**1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).**

There is no evidence of any significant historic, cultural, or scenic value and no record of any cultural resources at or near this site. The rocky bald provides a view of the surrounding landscape, but the view is not extensive enough to constitute a significant scenic value. In addition, the rocky bald is not highly visible from surrounding viewpoints.

**2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).**

The site has an extensive bald with an abundant population of white oak around the edges of the meadows. The plant community includes several plant species that are uncommon on the District.

**3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).**

The site is very rocky with thin soil. The bald is steep and unstable, with talus slopes below the bald. The site is wet in the spring, from seeps in the rocky outcrops. The rock outcrops are covered with various species of moss more common at higher elevations or on the eastside of the Cascades. Growing in the moss is the Eugene District's only known population of Thompson's mistmaiden (*Romazoffia thompsonii*), a Bureau Sensitive plant endemic to wet balds. Also at Marten Bald are *Githopsis speculariodes*, *Columbiadoria halli* and *Viola sheltonii*, vascular plant species that grow only in upland prairies and rocky balds. All are rare on the Eugene District. The rocky, thin soil and wet spring conditions appear to have contributed to an unusual floristic composition of the bald.

**4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.**

There are no natural hazards at this site. The bald is steep and unstable, but not sufficiently dangerous to constitute a natural hazard.

## **Importance**

**1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.**

The rocky bald is extensive and has unusual floristic diversity, which provides significant qualities compared to similar resources within the Willamette Valley region.

**2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.**

The steep and unstable soil in the rocky bald make it vulnerable to adverse change from displacement and erosion. Plants are easily dislodged or buried. The rocky bald is vulnerable to invasion by non-native species. The plant community in the rocky bald is dependent on the current hydrologic regime, which could be altered by timber harvest or road construction in the forest above the bald. The plant community in the rocky bald is vulnerable to adverse change from forest succession; the oak patch is slowly being invaded by Douglas-fir, which will eventually overtop and shade out the oaks.

**3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.**

The site has not been recognized as warranting protection.

**4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.**

There are no concerns about safety and public welfare associated with the site.

**5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.**

The site does not pose a threat to human life and safety or to property.

**Special Management Attention Needed to address:**

Special management is needed to avoid inappropriate recreation use that would damage the rocky bald. Special management is needed to withdraw the site from mineral entry; the geologic conditions that have created the relevant and important values make the site at risk of quarry development. Special management is needed to reduce the competition from conifers in and adjacent to the oak patches. Special management may be needed to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species.

**Recommendations:** The site meets criteria for relevance and importance, and special management is needed to maintain the relevant and important values. Therefore, the site should receive interim management as a potential ACEC at this time and should be designated as an ACEC in an appropriate future planning action.

**Screening Team:**

Richard Hardt	Ecologist, Eugene District
Nancy Sawtelle	Botanist/Plant Ecologist, Eugene District
Cheshire Mayrsohn	Botanist, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Christie Hardenbrook	Planner, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Jerry Richeson	Multi-Resource Staff Leader, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Clint Foster	Forester, Siuslaw Resource Area

**Concurrence:**

/s/ William O'Sullivan  
William O'Sullivan  
Upper Willamette Field Manager

2/17/11  
date

/s/ Virginia Grilley  
Virginia Grilley  
District Manager, Eugene District

2/22/11  
date

## ACEC Screening Summary October 19, 2010

**Name:** Willamette Valley Prairie, Oak, and Pine ACEC  
Wallace Creek

**Location:** See Map

**Acres:** approximately 13 acres

**Primary Values:** Vegetation, Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species,  
Cultural, Scenic

From the ACEC nomination: *Individually and in total these sites will protect, given appropriate management, numerous examples of important wildlife resources, including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity. Designation of these areas would facilitate the protection of natural processes that maintains these high-priority ecological systems. Many of these sites provide habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are greatly under-represented in protected areas in the Willamette Valley. Proper management of these sites will reduce the risk and impacts of catastrophic wildfire on surrounding landowners and local communities.*

*This criterion is also relevant to our nomination because the importance of fires to maintain and revitalize these habitats, as well as (in the case of prairies occurring on shallow soils over bedrock), the existence of unique soil conditions that have helped prairie, savanna, and oak/pine habitats to persist over the past 150 years.*

### **Site Summary:**

The ACEC screening team visited the site on October 19, 2010. The site is a meadow fringed with Oregon white oak patches and surrounded by managed stands of Douglas-fir and grand fir forest.

### **Criteria Evaluation:**

#### **Relevance**

**1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).**

There is no evidence of any significant historic, cultural, or scenic value and no record of any cultural resources at this site. However, there have not been any cultural surveys done on the site, and there are several cultural sites on nearby BLM-administered lands.

**2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).**

The meadow is extensive in size and is part of a much larger complex of meadows on adjacent private land. The site includes a population of wayside aster (*Eucephalus vialis*), a BLM sensitive species. The meadow, together with the adjacent meadows on private land, provides habitat essential for maintaining species diversity.

**3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).**

The meadow appears to have maintained by a combination of dry site conditions and disturbance history. These conditions appear to have contributed to an unusual floristic composition of the patch.

**4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.**

There are no natural hazards at this site.

### **Importance**

**1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.**

Meadows of this size on BLM-administered lands are uncommon. In addition, the site is part of a much larger complex of meadows on private land, giving it special worth.

**2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.**

The meadow, wayside aster population, and the fringing Oregon white oak patches are vulnerable to adverse change through forest succession to conifers. The meadow and wayside aster population is vulnerable to adverse change from ongoing invasion by non-native species, notably false brome and blackberries.

**3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.**

The site has not been recognized as warranting protection.

**4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.**

There are no concerns about safety and public welfare associated with the site.

**5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.**

The site does not pose a threat to human life and safety or to property.

**Special Management Attention Needed to address:**

Special management is needed to reduce the competition from conifers in and adjacent to the meadow. Killing conifer trees and possibly prescribed burning will be necessary in the meadow and fringing oak patches. The conifer removal necessary to maintain the relevant and important values at these sites may be problematic within the Matrix land use allocation. In addition, special management is needed to reverse the invasion of the site by non-native species.

**Recommendations:** The meadow and fringing Oregon white oak patches meet criteria for relevance and importance, and special management is needed to maintain the relevant and important values. Therefore, the meadow and oak patches should receive interim management as a potential ACEC at this time and should be designated as an ACEC in an appropriate future planning action. However, portions of the nominated area lack relevant and important values (the northeastern and southwestern portions of the nominated area which are managed stands of Douglas-fir and grand fir). Interim management and eventual designation as an ACEC should be focused on the meadow and fringing Oregon white oak patches that require special management to maintain the relevant and important values. The boundaries of the designated areas should be determined by an interdisciplinary team, based on the special management needed to maintain the relevant and important values.

**Screening Team:**

Richard Hardt	Ecologist, Eugene District
Nancy Sawtelle	Botanist/Plant Ecologist, Eugene District
Cheshire Mayrsohn	Botanist, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Christie Hardenbrook	Planner, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Jerry Richeson	Multi-Resource Staff Leader, Upper Willamette Resource Area
Clint Foster	Forester, Siuslaw Resource Area

**Concurrence:**

<u>/s/ William O'Sullivan</u>	<u>2/17/11</u>
William O'Sullivan	date
Upper Willamette Field Manager	

<u>/s/ Virginia Grilley</u>	<u>2/22/11</u>
Virginia Grilley	date
District Manager, Eugene District	