

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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February 17 - West Linn Students Help Restore White Oak Savanna

Salem, Ore.—On February 17, at 8:45 a.m., 120 elementary and high school West Linn students will gather at the White Oak Savanna in West Linn. At the event each high school student will pair off with an elementary school student. The students will dig up three oak seedlings and plant native grasses and forbes. Local PhD biologist, Dr. Richard Mishaga, will be on hand to talk to the students about white oak savanna as a significant wildlife habitat.

Later in the day, the students will bring the oak seedlings to the Bureau of Land Management's Horning Seed Orchard in Colton. They will pot the seedlings, which will then be grown at the Horning Native Plant Center for one year. Next year, they will transplant the seedlings in their West Linn community.

White oak savanna once totaled more than 600,000 acres in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Only about two percent remains, and of that, only one percent is publically-owned. More than \$1 million dollars has been raised in matching funds grants from the State of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Metro, and the City of West Linn to buy the first 14 acres of White Oak Savanna Park. Fundraising to purchase the remaining 5.65 acres is ongoing. Neighbors for a Livable West Linn, a nonprofit organization, have been acquiring and restoring the White Oak Savanna as a natural park during the past six years. The park is located off I-205 in West Linn.

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About the BLM: The BLM manages more land – 245 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands

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