

# The Table Rocks Oak Climate Adaptation Project



## RESTORING LOCAL OAK WOODLANDS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

The Table Rocks Oak Climate Adaptation Project is part of a landscape scale collaborative effort to restore declining oak ecosystems and increase their resiliency to climate change in the Rogue Basin. Oak ecosystems exist in only a small percentage of their historic distribution and oak associated plant and animal species are at risk. This project will implement restoration activities to protect existing oak woodlands and reverse the decline of species that depend on oak habitat.

### A DISAPPEARING HABITAT

More than 90% of pre-settlement oak habitats have already been cleared to make way for farms, urban areas, and other human developments. In remaining oak habitats, active fire suppression has resulted in stands that are greatly overstocked, reducing habitat quality, building fuel loads, and increasing the risk of high-intensity wildfire. Major threats to oak habitat quantity and quality include:

- Conifer encroachment
- Land use conversion
- Loss of habitat structure
- Climate change
- Exotic invasive species

### RESTORATION OBJECTIVES

By incorporating climate adaptation strategies into restoration planning, this project is designed to:

- Reduce existing threats, including wildfire, to oaks and associated plant communities.
- Protect and promote oak habitat and its connectivity for oak associated wildlife.
- Increase the potential for oak ecosystems to withstand the likely effects of climate change.



### WHAT TO EXPECT

On-the-ground operations began in February, 2015 and will conclude in early April, 2015. Work will commence again in the fall of 2015 and operate seasonally until 2019. During operations, visitors may hear chainsaw noise and encounter smoke. \*No trails will be closed at this time. Restoration activities will take place on either Upper or Lower Table Rock at any given time. When work is in proximity to the trail, signs will be posted to advise visitors to use the other Table Rocks trail if they prefer to avoid operations.



### MONITORING

Working together, Lomakatsi, The Nature Conservancy and Klamath Bird Observatory are using science-based monitoring methods to evaluate the effectiveness of treatments to achieve oak habitat conservation goals. This includes:

- Vegetation Monitoring – measuring tree density, shrub cover, level of encroachment
- Wildlife Monitoring - measuring change in bird populations



Predicted effects of climate change, including warmer temperatures, drier summers, and increased likelihood of drought and summer wildfire, threaten oak habitats.



### TREATMENT ACTIVITIES

Mitigation and restoration practices will be implemented on 1,200 acres of public and private land at the Table Rocks. These include:

- Ecological thinning of encroaching trees and shrubs, mainly around large white and black oak trees
- Invasive species removal
- Prescribed fire/Controlled burning
- Native grass seeding
- Vegetation and wildlife monitoring

Climate models suggest that oak habitat will persist on the Table Rocks; with the removal of other threats we are restoring habitat in an area where it will be favored in the future.



### PARTNERING TO PROTECT OAK HABITAT

Support for this project was secured by Lomakatsi through a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society's Climate Adaptation Fund (established by support from the Doris Duke Foundation). Funding is also being provided by Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Klamath Bird Observatory. Additionally, supporting partners include the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Project partners are also working with Native American Tribes that have ancestral ties to the Table Rocks, including the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, and Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon, to inform project design and treatment implementation.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### Visit

[www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/tablerock/index.php](http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/tablerock/index.php)  
[www.lomakatsi.org/oak-habitat-restoration/](http://www.lomakatsi.org/oak-habitat-restoration/)  
<http://programs.wcs.org/northamerica/ClimateAdaptationFund.aspx>

#### Call

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