



South Sound Program Highlights January – March 2013

The Center for Natural Lands Management is committed to conservation within the South Sound region, the Willamette Valley/Puget Trough/Georgia Basin ecoregion and throughout the Northwest. The Center performs outstanding stewardship, protects key conservation parcels and promotes a conservation community of cooperative partners.

CNLM Acquires Property with Taylor's Checkerspot Population

The Center for Natural Lands Management has partnered with the Department of Defense to purchase lands that contain one of the few remaining populations of Taylor's checkerspot. The property contains balds, areas of poor soils and grassland vegetation, which support the butterfly. The Center for Natural Lands Management purchased 152 acres of habitat on Dan Kelly Ridge, in Clallam County, WA from the Aloha Timber Company.

Cooperative conservation is being employed for management and enhancement of the parcel. This summer crews from the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife will be linking up with CNLM to work on Dan Kelly Ridge, eliminating weeds and restoring habitat for the butterfly. Funding for that effort is coming from a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Staff from the North Olympic Land Trust will also be helping to manage and steward the property. CNLM is very excited to report our first property acquisition in Washington.

Pilot Study Evaluating Post-Diapause Taylor's Checkerspot Larval Use of Golden Paintbrush

In February, biologists from WDFW and CNLM released 3300 Taylor's checkerspot larvae at Glacial Heritage Preserve. The larval release marks the second year of reintroduction efforts at Glacial Heritage. The site has been carefully enhanced through intensive recovery outplantings, burning, herbiciding, and other management efforts.

This year's release included a pilot study to evaluate the suitability of golden paintbrush as a foodplant for post-diapause Taylor's checkerspot larvae. Though there is anecdotal evidence of Taylor's checkerspots historically using golden paintbrush as a host plant, no populations current co-exist.

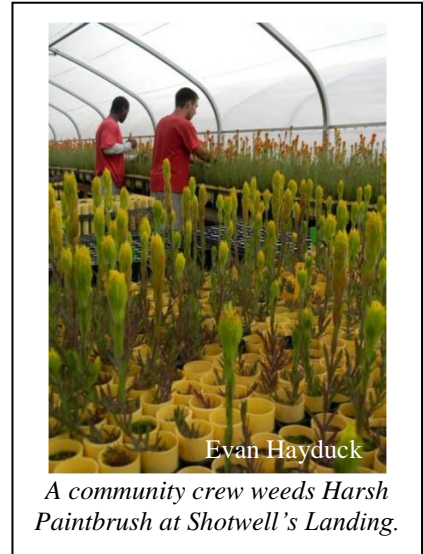
The pilot study, designed and implemented by land managers and scientists from CNLM, rare species biologists from WDFW, and researchers from the University of Washington, seeks to find out more about the relationship between the two species. For more information about this project, visit our blog on southsoundprairies.org



New Prairie Restoration Community Crew

Through a close collaboration with the Sustainability in Prisons Project, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife and WA Department of Natural Resources, and CNLM, a Cedar Creek Correctional Center community crew of ten men dedicated to prairie habitat restoration just began their first week of work.

The crew will gain and improve skills in a wide variety of techniques, including plant propagation, noxious weed control, seed production and processing, prescribed fire techniques, and plant re-introduction. SPP and CNLM look forward to providing instruction, resources, and guidance to the crews so their work will be an enriching educational experience at the same time as they contribute to regional restoration efforts.



Over 200 Attendees at CPOP Conference

In March we hosted the 2nd annual Cascadia Prairie Oak Partnership Conference in partnership with the Northwest Scientific Association in Portland. There were over 200 attendees at the conference. CNLM staff presented a total of 10 oral presentations and three of our Americorps members presented posters.

The conference provided a critical opportunity for land managers, biologists, regulators, students, and researchers across both sides of the Cascades and international borders to come together to learn about the projects, accomplishments, and lessons learned from the many organizations involved in prairie-oak conservation. Highlights included two special CPOP symposia, with one focused on climate change and the other on prairie-oak birds, and eight CPOP technical sessions, three of which focused on reintroduction, and a CPOP business lunch.

Signs of Success for Streaked Horned Lark Genetic Rescue Project

Larks have returned to the South Sound for the season. We are particularly excited about one lark at 13th Division prairie at JBLM. This lark, which was moved from the Corvallis airport to 13th Division prairie while in his incubation phase, is part of a cooperative genetic rescue project for the South Sound population. Now as a two-year old bird, he has returned to 13th Division and is paired with an unbanded female. If these two larks mate, he will introduce new genetics into the South Sound population. We are encouraged by this positive outcome that we have seen from our lark rescue efforts.

Prairie Appreciation Day

Prairie Appreciation Day is coming up on May 11th from 10 AM- 3 PM. There are already reports of camas blooming on the prairies. Bring your friends and family to this 18th annual celebration of our prairies. Visit prairieappreciationday.org for more information.

