



## ***South Sound Program Highlights January-March 2014***

*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.*

### **New CNLM Preserve protects prairie habitat and Mazama pocket gophers**

CNLM has purchased 140 acres in South Thurston County to protect native habitats and wildlife. Known as the [Deschutes River Preserve](#), the property is home to a population of Mazama pocket gophers, recently protected under the Endangered Species Act. Restoration efforts on the preserve could support more rare plants and animals, such as the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, streaked horned lark, and golden paintbrush. The Deschutes River Preserve includes grassland, oak woodland, riparian habitat, and is bordered by the Deschutes River. Located on the historic Weir prairie, the preserve connects with the Weir prairies including Tenalquot Prairie.



*The new Deschutes River Preserve is located less than a mile from Tenalquot Preserve.*



*CNLM staff and volunteers celebrated the Deschutes River Preserve together (photo: Elspeth Hilton).*

### **CNLM and the Dept. of Veterans Affairs launch Veteran Internship Program**

CNLM has teamed up with the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) to offer a great opportunity for veterans. CNLM is offering [internships](#) for veterans that provide job training and experience in the environmental field. These focused internships help train veterans in scientific monitoring, state of the art restoration techniques, knotweed control, and prescribed fire implementation. WDVA and CNLM are striving to forge lasting relationships between veterans and the environment by providing opportunities to gain experience, training, and get their foot in the door.



*Deston Denniston is one of five veterans that joined CNLM through the new Vet Corps program (photo: Deston Denniston).*

## **Taylor's Checkerspots released at two sites**

In March, Taylor's checkerspot larvae were released at two sites in the Puget lowlands. A total of 2,582 larvae were released between Glacial Heritage Preserve and a new site on JBLM. The releases were led by Mary Linders at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Larvae were reared at the Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women through a partnership between the Washington State Department of Corrections and the Sustainability in Prisons Project. CNLM and partners planted almost 200,000 plants this year to prepare habitat for these as well as future releases. We are excited to report that checkerspots have started flying at these sites!



*Bill Kronland releases Taylor's checkerspot larvae at Glacial Heritage.*

## **CPOP's Website and Technical Library is Live**

We are pleased to announce that the Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership's [website](#) now features a [technical document library](#). Find key prairie-oak conservation documents, including management guides, journal articles, conservation strategies and project reports, through the keyword search and subject filters. Currently featuring nearly 100 documents that you can access via a downloadable PDF or link, site content grows each day - and you can help by submitting your own prairie-oak documents (see directions on the website).

The CPOP community is home to a great amount of expertise - much of which has been documented throughout the years in outreach pieces, journal articles, grant reports and more. The goal for the technical library is to make this wealth of information more accessible by creating a place where you can find all of these documents in one place - documents on a range of subjects by a range of authors, including documents that otherwise haven't been made available online.

## **Visit CNLM at local fairs this summer**

CNLM will be attending various community events this summer to talk about prairies and their importance here in the South Sound. We have activities and information for kids and adults, including a Mazama pocket gopher tunnel for kids to crawl through. We recently attended Kid's Fest and Earth Day at JBLM and will be attending Mother Earth News Festival in Puyallup, Oregon Trail Days in Tenino, the Thurston County Fair, and the Nisqually Watershed Festival. Please stop by and say hello!

## **Prairie Appreciation Day coming up soon**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual [Prairie Appreciation Day](#) is coming up on May 10. There are typically over a thousand people that visit the prairie to see the wildflowers, listen to the birds, and learn about the incredible prairies we have here in the South Sound. Last year, visitors saw Taylor's checkerspots flying! Many thanks to those of you who will be volunteering. If you have never been, it's a wonderful event and it's free.