The West Eugene Wetlands Partnership:
Criteria used to analyze priorities for protection, acquisition, and mitigation

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City of Eugene, Oregon
Timeline of Major Steps

1. Planning
   - Criteria
   - Inventory
   - Public process

2. Adoption
   - City
   - County
   - State
   - Federal

3. Implementation
   - Acquisition
   - Land Management (mitigation)
   - Education
   - Recreation Facilities

Year:
- 1988
- 1990
- 1992
- 1994
- 1996
- 1998
- 2000
- 2002
- 2004
Priorities: Key Questions

A. Where would wetland management (including mitigation) most likely succeed in perpetuity?

1. Where there were historically wetlands
2. Where there are currently (jurisdictional) wetlands
3. Where existing habitat is high quality
4. Where there is hydrologic connectivity to major streams, within 100-year floodplain
Priorities: Key Questions

B. What other criteria should be considered?

5. Rare plants
6. Rare animals
7. Existing zoning for Natural Resources
8. Habitat connectivity
9. Wet prairie habitat type
1. Historic Vegetation (~1850’s)

Legend

Vegetation in 1850’s
- Mounded prairie, seasonally wet
- Seasonally wet prairie
- Upland prairie, xeric
- Closed riparian and wetland forest
- Closed upland forest
- Woodland
- Oak savanna
- Emergent wetlands
- Open water
- Unvegetated

Downtown Eugene
2-3. Wetland inventory and habitat quality

- on-site field work to identify wetlands
- air photo interpretation
- assessment of quality
4. Hydrologic connectivity to major streams, within 100-year flood plain
5. Rare Plants (three federally listed)

*Erigeron decumbens*

*Lomatium bradshawii*
6. Rare Animals (one federally listed)
7. Existing Zoning for NR
8. Habitat Connectivity
9. Wet Prairie Habitat Type
How were criteria developed?

1. Committee of wetland scientists and other experts

   - 7 public workshops
   - Opinion surveys, questionnaires
   - Many field trips
   - Speaker’s bureau
   - Direct contacts
   - Public hearings

During the 4-year planning process . . .

- 25% of budget spent on scientific input
- 75% of the budget spent on the planning and public involvement process
How were criteria employed as a decision-support tool?

A. Land-use designations developed
   1. **Protect** - Can not be developed, has set-backs
   2. **Restore** - Can not be developed, no set-backs
   3. **Develop** - Can develop with state and federal permits

B. Wetland sites assigned to each designation
   1. Scores developed for each site
   2. Based on how the meet each criterion

C. Public Adoption Process
West Eugene Wetlands Plan

A. What is it?

- Land-use plan
- Adopted by City of Eugene
- Adopted by Lane County
- Acknowledged by State and Federal regulatory agencies

B. Broad Objectives

- To find a balance between wetlands protection and sound urban development.
- To meet state and federal laws and regulations.
Non-Wetlands - 81%

Wetlands - 19%

All Lands within planning area (7,907 acres)

Wetlands within planning area (1,491 acres)

Protect - 49%

Develop - 21%

Restore - 30%

Balance?
West Eugene Wetlands Partnership

- City of Eugene
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Oregon Youth Conservation Corps
- McKenzie River Trust
- WREN
Land Acquisition History

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Acres Owned</th>
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<td>2004</td>
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West Eugene Wetland Plan Adopted
Funding Sources for Acquisition
(~ $20 million since 1992)

Local

- City of Eugene park bonds
- City of Eugene stormwater funds

State

- OWEB grants

Federal

- Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF)
- NAWCA grant funds
- Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Private

- TNC funds
- Donations
Land Management

A. Mitigation Bank

B. Non-Bank
- TNC lands
- 1135 project lands
- Other grants (CCI)
- Research projects
- Future bank lands
- Uplands

Map:
- Nectar plots
- Emergent/Vernal Pool hand seeding
- Plugs or Bulbs

Legend:
- Habitat Type/Seeding Zone
  - Emergent
  - Herptile mound
  - Upland Prairie
  - Wet Prairie

W. 18th
Bertelsen Rd.
Recreation
Environmental Education

1. Year-round programs
2. Adults and children
3. Target student population is 3rd - 5th grade
4. Field-based
5. 1500 people served per year
Partnership Accomplishments

A. Policy

- West Eugene Wetlands Plan adopted
- MOU’s among partners

B. Ecological

- 3000 acres of land and ↑
- Landscape connectivity
- Protection of rare species and habitats

C. Mitigation Bank

- Meeting developers needs
- Over 78 credits sold between 1994 - 2003
- Financially stable
- Long-term management commitment
Partnership Accomplishments

D. Educational
• Curriculum for 3rd - 5th grade
• Laboratory for learning
• Year-round activities for children and adults
• New $12 million facility in fund-raising stage

E. Community
• Community is involved and vested
• Recreation facilities well used
• Large volunteer program (Stream Team and others)

F. Partnership
• 12 years of successful partnering
• New partners continue to want to join
Partnership Accomplishments

G. Research

- prescribed fire and plant community structure
- Fender’s blue butterfly
- rare plant experiments and monitoring
- soil stratigraphy
- experiments on upland prairie restoration techniques
- evaluation of wet prairie site preparation techniques on soils, plant productivity, and plant community structure