

VII. Oregon's Forest Legacy Areas

A total of 36 areas were originally evaluated for inclusion in the Oregon Forest Legacy Program. Of these, 17 met the minimum criteria by having significant amounts of private forestland threatened with the possibility of conversion to non forest uses within the next 10 years. These were presented to the public at public hearings, on the Internet, and in other public forums. Following the public participation process, boundaries were changed, some areas were combined, and 15 Forest Legacy Areas were selected for inclusion in the program. Due to public comments, the south coast area was added, several areas in the Willamette Valley were combined into one and the boundaries for some of the selected areas were modified significantly from those first presented to the public. Each of the legacy areas is described below in the context of the ecoregion in which they occur.

Each legacy area is summarized as follows. First, there is a general description of the area. Next, there is a summary of the significant ecological, social and economic benefits to be gained from protecting private forests from conversion in these areas. Then there is a review of the threats of conversion in the legacy area. Finally, there is an identification of the specific goals and objectives for the area. The goals and objectives are designed to serve as performance measures for evaluating the implementation of the forest legacy program in Oregon. The goals and objectives of each legacy area are not meant to be comprehensive. Rather they are to identify the key issues tied to forests in these legacy areas. The overall goal for implementing forest legacy in Oregon is to protect private forest lands from conversion such that these forests make positive contributions in addressing these issues.

A. Coast Range Forest Legacy Areas

While three areas were initially evaluated, two legacy areas were selected, covering the majority of the private forest lands in the Oregon Coast Range found in the rapidly growing coastal strip.

North Coast Forest Legacy Area

Priority - 6

Description: The north coast includes the private coastal strip in Clatsop, Tillamook and Lincoln counties. It extends east along the Columbia River to include the small town of Knappa, but generally covers the areas along the coast where recreational and residential development is occurring. The southern end of the boundary is just south of Yachats. The legacy area was almost entirely forested with Sitka spruce when the first European settlers arrived in Oregon.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: Sitka spruce and shore pine forests are the most widespread forest types within this legacy area, which includes important wetland and saltmarsh forest habitats. Forests and their streams produce the most productive and threatened salmon streams in Oregon. The area is important to threatened and endangered plants and wildlife as well. The North Coast Conservancy and both county and city governments are potential Forest Legacy partners.

Threats of Conversion: This area is growing the fastest of any area on the coast, due primarily to its proximity to the large population centers in the northern Willamette Valley. Because of the rapid development of second homes and resorts, it is the coastal area where the most forest conversion is occurring. Most of the forests being lost on the north coast are

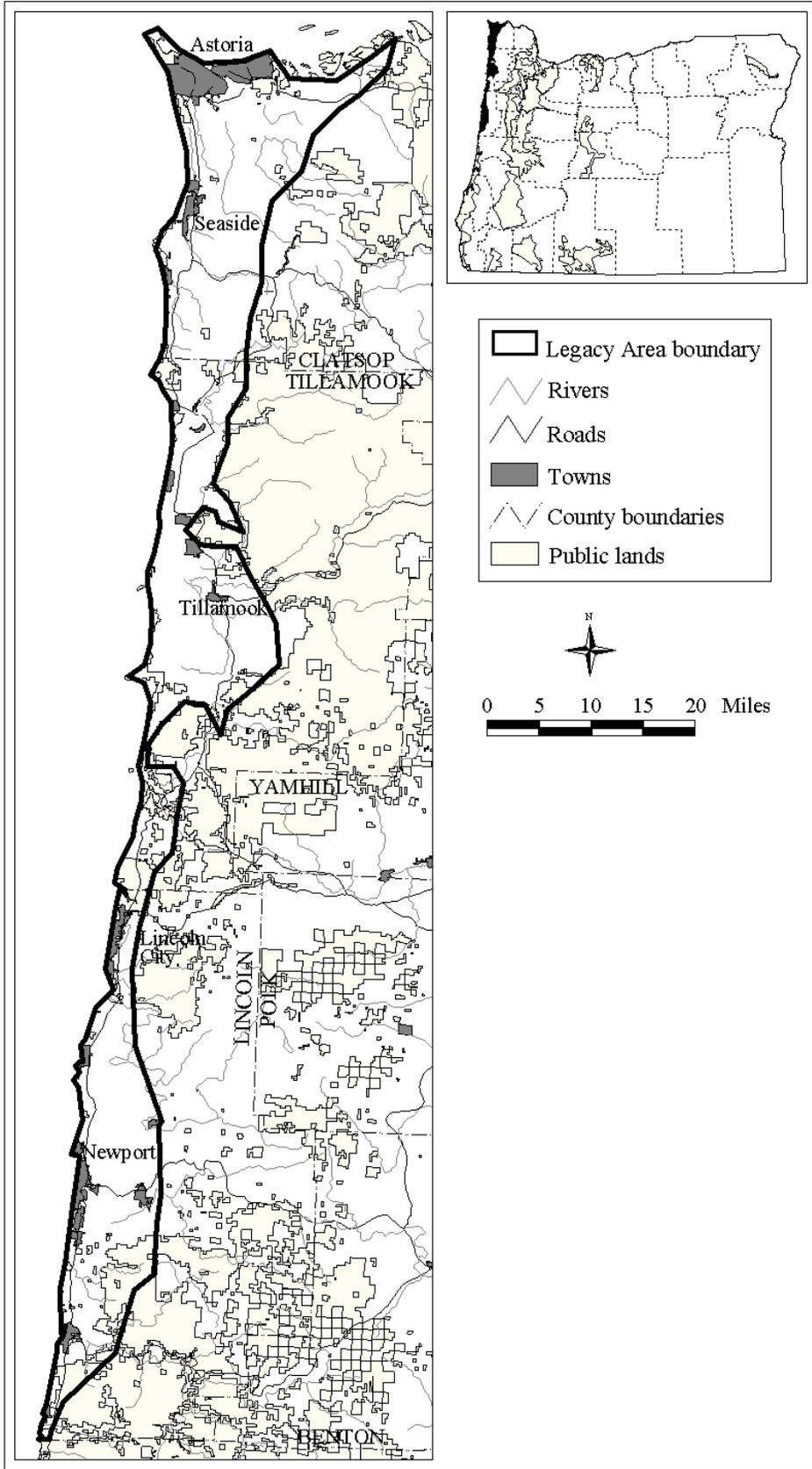


Figure 18. Map of North Coast Forest Legacy Area

found within the Sitka spruce zone, usually within a few miles of the ocean. Forest conversions are concentrated around the towns of Astoria, Seaside, Cannon Beach, Tillamook, Lincoln City, and Newport.

Losses and Threats		Significant Values threatened by Conversion	
Forests habitats lost since 1850	+583 acres ¹	Total private forest left	382,564 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994	- 6,388 acres	Priority forest habitats ² left	764 acres
Forest loss predicted	- 15,389 acres	Miles of T&E fish habitat	724 miles
Population growth in 1990's	+ 10,511 people	T&E species occurrences	228
		Priority wildlife species	5
		Economic – 0-10% dependant on timber	
		Social – Forest recreation critical to economy	

¹ Forests have expanded here since 1851

² Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Prevent important forested wetlands, estuarine and freshwater habitats from being converted to recreational and suburban uses, in order to reduce flooding and improve salmon habitat.
- 2) Provide a tool for local governments and watershed councils for riparian forests and shorepine wetland protection to help achieve the goals of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.
- 3) Protect key spruce headland forests to block-up the near shore network of parks, preserves, and national forests.

Description: This legacy area now includes all the private coastal forests from southern Lane County (Florence) to the California border, generally covering the areas along the coast where recreational and residential development is occurring. This includes the Oregon Dunes National Recreational Area, and some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in the state. This area was excluded from the initial list due to slower population growth and more limited threats. However, public comments and local interest resulted in including these diverse forests as an Oregon Forest Legacy Area, with new boundaries.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: The legacy area includes Sitka spruce forests and the largest coastal dune ecosystem in the lower 48 states. It has exceptional Port-Orford-cedar forests threatened by an introduced root disease. Mature Port-Orford-cedar forests have almost vanished from the coastal lowlands. Oregon white oak, tan oak, grand fir, Douglas-fir and coast redwood forests can all be found on private forests in this legacy area. Remaining coast redwood forests exist mostly on private industrial and public lands, although much of the historical range of coast redwood has already been converted to residential and recreational use. In general, private forestlands in this legacy area are an important source of timber supply for the local, resource dependent economy.

Threats of Conversion: While growth is occurring more slowly in this area than most of the other legacy areas, these coastal communities cannot afford much private forestland conversion. This is because these private forests have replaced the public forests as a source of needed timber for local natural resource based economies. While protection of remaining redwood groves in Oregon is important, conversion of private redwood forests is generally low. Retirement houses, second houses, and increased agricultural development are threats, as well as conversion of some of these forests to cranberry bogs, especially in the old marine terraces between the towns of Bandon and Port Orford.

Losses and Threats	Significant Values threatened by Conversion
Forests habitats lost since 1850 – 78,227 acres	Total private forest left 460,644 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994 – 9,276 acres	Priority forest habitats ¹ left 13,844 acres
Forest loss predicted – 13,710 acres	Miles of T&E fish habitat 645 miles
Population growth in 1990’s + 4,316 people	T&E species occurrences 396
	Priority wildlife species 9
	Economic – 5-10% economically dependent & economically distressed counties
	Social – Forest recreation important to economy

¹ Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Prevent important forested wetlands and riparian habitats from being converted to recreational, agricultural and suburban uses, in order to reduce flooding and improve salmon habitat.
- 2) Protect key forested sites from conversion to increase the viability and security of the near-shore network of parks, preserves, and national forests. Potentially focus on the Elk River-Sixes River, Coquille River, South Slough, and the Siuslaw estuary.
- 3) Protect viable examples of a coastal marine terrace, near shore Oregon oak savanna, Sitka spruce-grand fir, coastal redwood and Port-Orford-cedar forest.
- 4) Maintain productive private timberlands as a source of timber supply for local wood products industries.

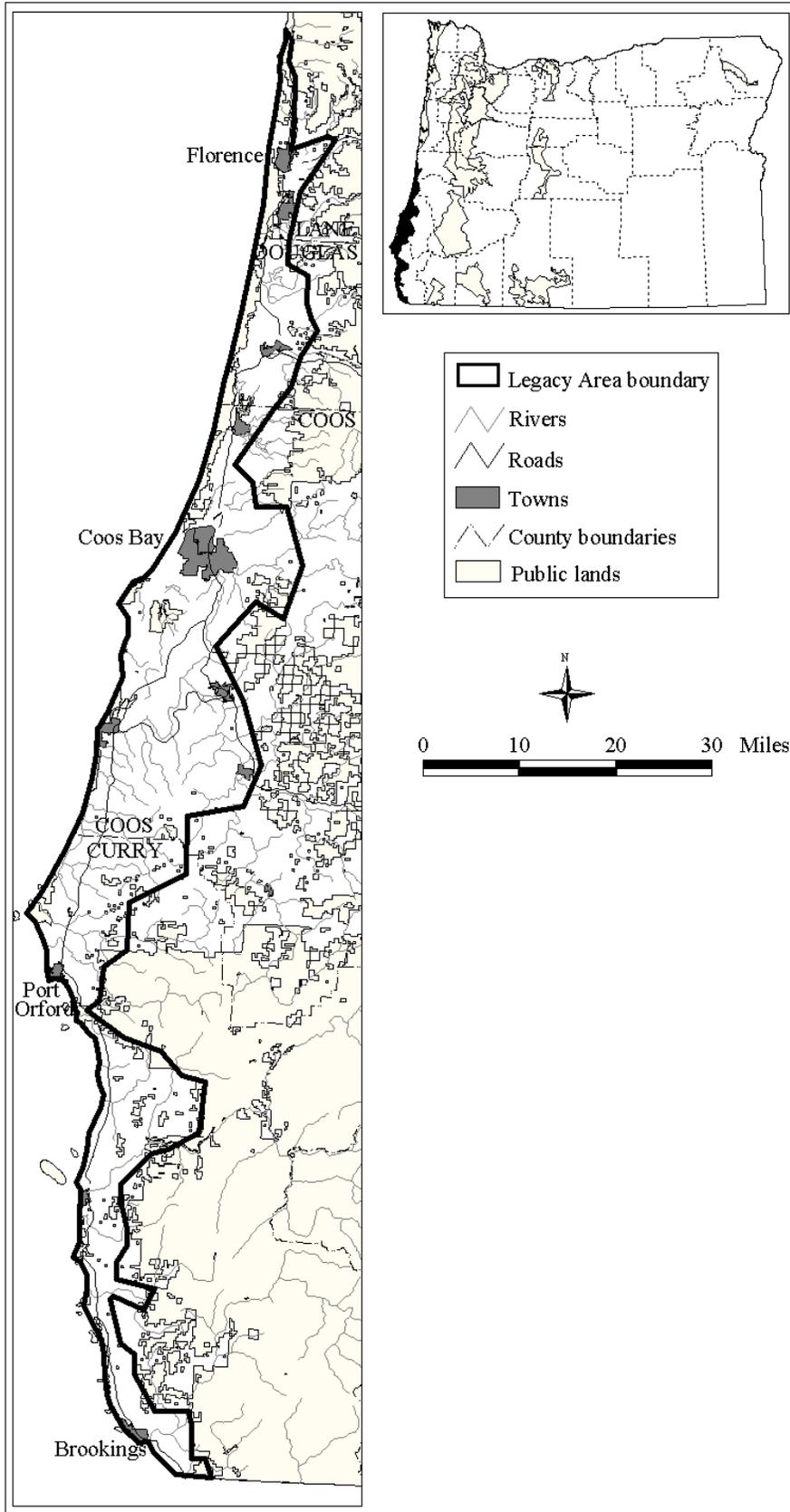


Figure 19. Map of South Coast Forest Legacy Area

B. Willamette Valley Forest Legacy Areas

Eleven potential legacy areas were evaluated in the Willamette Valley. This is the only ecoregion that was evaluated in its entirety, since it is the only ecoregion which has forests throughout, and which is almost entirely in private ownership. Initially, the potential legacy areas were selected by county within the valley, but following public comments and hearings, a number of sites were combined, based on community interest and similarities.

Generally, the forests that remain undeveloped are foothill margin and valley hill Oregon oak and mixed conifer forests. Floodplain forests remaining along the Willamette River in Lane, Benton and Linn counties were extensive enough that this valley bottomland was also included and grouped as the Southern Willamette River Riparian area. Because of the immediate development pressure on the forests in the Willamette Valley, all of the evaluated legacy areas were included in the final list with the exception of the Linn County Foothills. It was determined that the private forestlands within the Linn County Foothills would not likely face major conversion threats within the next 10 years.

The statewide existing vegetation data from the Gap Analysis Project does a poor job of showing remaining forests and woodlands in urban areas. The Metro Regional Government (Metro) recently contracted with Ecotrust, a nonprofit organization promoting conservation-based development, to create a high-resolution vegetation map for the entire metro area. This map was used to show the extent of forests in the region, but was not used by ODF or ORNHP in evaluating forest losses.

Metro Forest Legacy Area

Priority – 3

Description: This area includes the portions of the Portland Metropolitan Area located within the Willamette Valley ecoregion. Initially, three potential legacy areas were evaluated in the metro area, west Multnomah – Columbia counties, Washington County, and Clackamas – east Multnomah County. Based on public comments, these three areas have been combined into one legacy area encompassing the greater Portland metro area and surrounding forest lands. Remaining low-elevation conifer bottomlands, some cottonwood, alder and ash riparian, oak woodlands and mixed hardwood forests make the area very diverse – in spite of the very extensive development.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: The Metro Legacy Area lacks some of the ecological significance of a few other areas, with fewer acres of priority habitats, endangered fish and wildlife, and priority wildlife habitat. The private forests provide habitat for the rare rock white larkspur, and endangered salmon and steelhead. Its overall priority remains high because it has some of the greatest opportunities for public recreation and protection of scenic values, along with the greatest threats of conversion and large historic losses.

The metro area has demonstrated significant interest in the Forest Legacy Program, and has a number of partners, including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Metro, the local regional government. In particular, Metro has recently passed a bond measure to help protect forests in the area, called Metro Greenspaces. The Metro Greenspaces program has worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oregon Natural Heritage Program, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to identify sites which are the most significant for wildlife habitats and ecological values. The Columbia Land Trust also has expressed an interest in assisting with the implementation of the Forest Legacy Program in this legacy area, while the Three Rivers Land Trust also works in the area. Local watershed councils, while not involved in the Forest Legacy Program to date, also provide significant partnership opportunities.

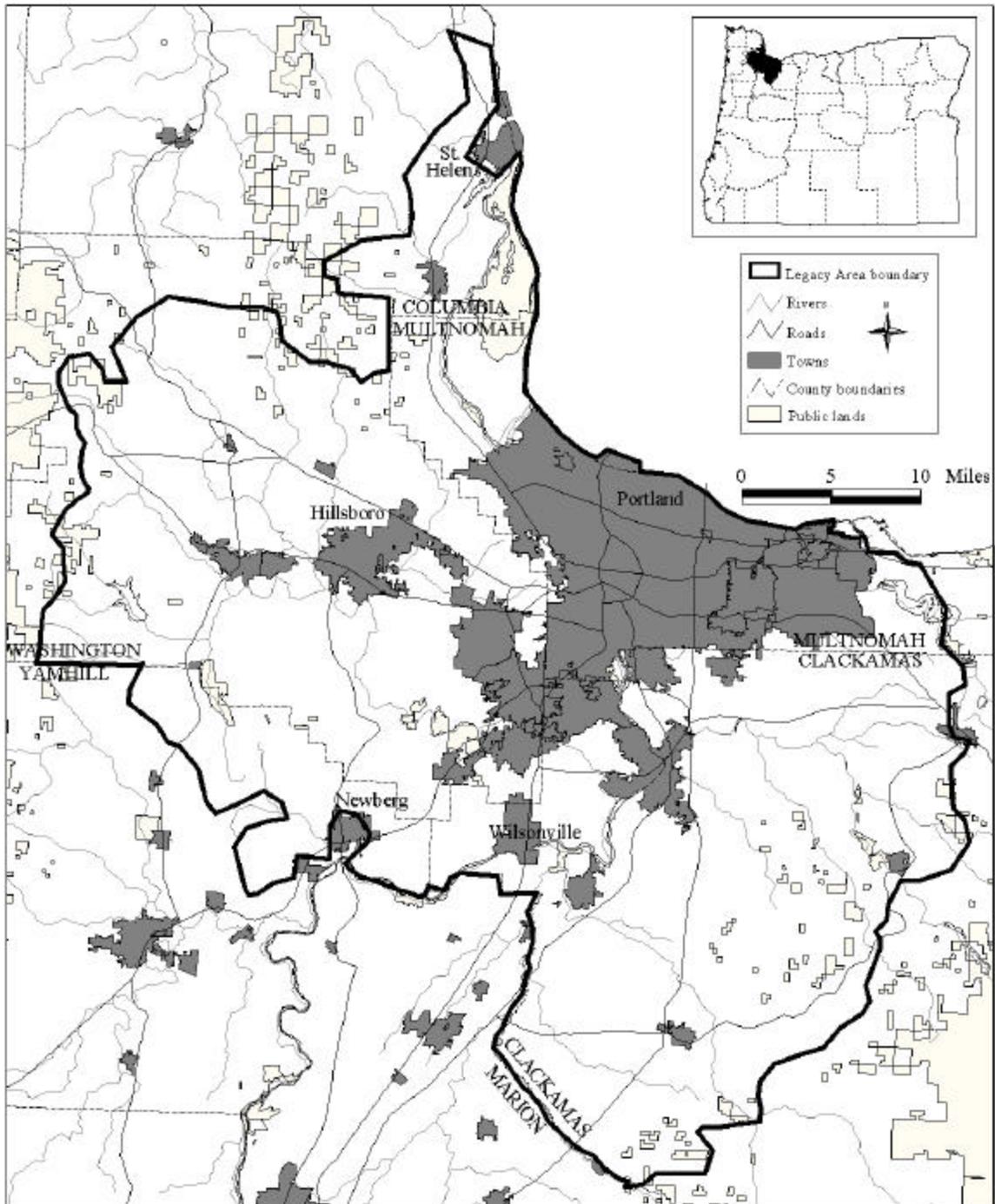


Figure 20. Map of Metro Forest Legacy Area

Threats of Conversion: This is the most urbanized area in the state, as well as the area which has experienced the most growth over the last decade. It has experienced the greatest historical losses of forests, and continues to lose forests at a rapid rate. The greatest threats of conversion are from residential, industrial and commercial development and population growth.

Losses and Threats	Significant Values threatened by Conversion
Forest habitats lost since 1850 – 316,761 acres	Total private forest left 366,191 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994 – 66,577 acres	Priority forest habitats ¹ left 30,772 acres
Forest loss predicted – 150,623 acres	Miles of T&E fish habitat 737 miles
Population growth in 1990's + 269,928 people	T&E species occurrences 99
	Priority wildlife species 4
	Economic – < 5% economically dependent
	Social – Private forests key to recreation, open space and water quality

¹ Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Complement the existing Metro Greenspaces program to assist in the protection of important forest parcels to promote recreational opportunities and provide open space.
- 2) Reduce conversion of key forested riparian and wetland habitats to urban and suburban uses to reduce flooding, improve water quality and improve salmon habitat. Upland forest buffers identified by watershed councils and metro governmental plans may also be key.

Description: This area includes limited valley bottom and riparian hardwoods, and some of the largest remaining oak woodlands in Oregon, such as the open oak forests between McMinnville and Sheridan, as well as those in the Coast Range foothills in northern Polk County. Boundaries on this legacy area were modified as a result of public comments.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: The oak woodlands in this legacy area are ecologically significant, containing some of the largest remaining blocks in the Willamette Valley. Many of these oak woodlands appear to have slower rates of Douglas fir invasion, making them potentially easier to restore or maintain. The Oregon Forest Legacy Program may have to work to develop local partnerships.

Threats of Conversion: Growth is occurring throughout this legacy area; however, it is not as concentrated or as immediate as some of the other Willamette Valley legacy areas. Forests are being converted to housing developments and to expanding agriculture, specifically vineyards and nurseries.

Losses and Threats	Significant Values threatened by Conversion
Forest habitats lost since 1850 – 16,686 acres	Total private forest left 124,663 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994 – 2,557 acres	Priority forest habitats ¹ left 21,961 acres
Forest loss predicted – 1,560 acres	Miles of T&E fish habitat 144 miles
Population growth in 1990’s + 26,280 people	T&E species occurrences 44
	Priority wildlife species 1
	Economic – < 5% economically dependent
	Social – Forests important to water quality
	¹ Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Protect viable occurrences of oak woodlands or savanna habitats.
- 2) Enhance watersheds by protecting key forested riparian habitats from being converted to agricultural and suburban uses to improve water quality and protect salmon habitat.

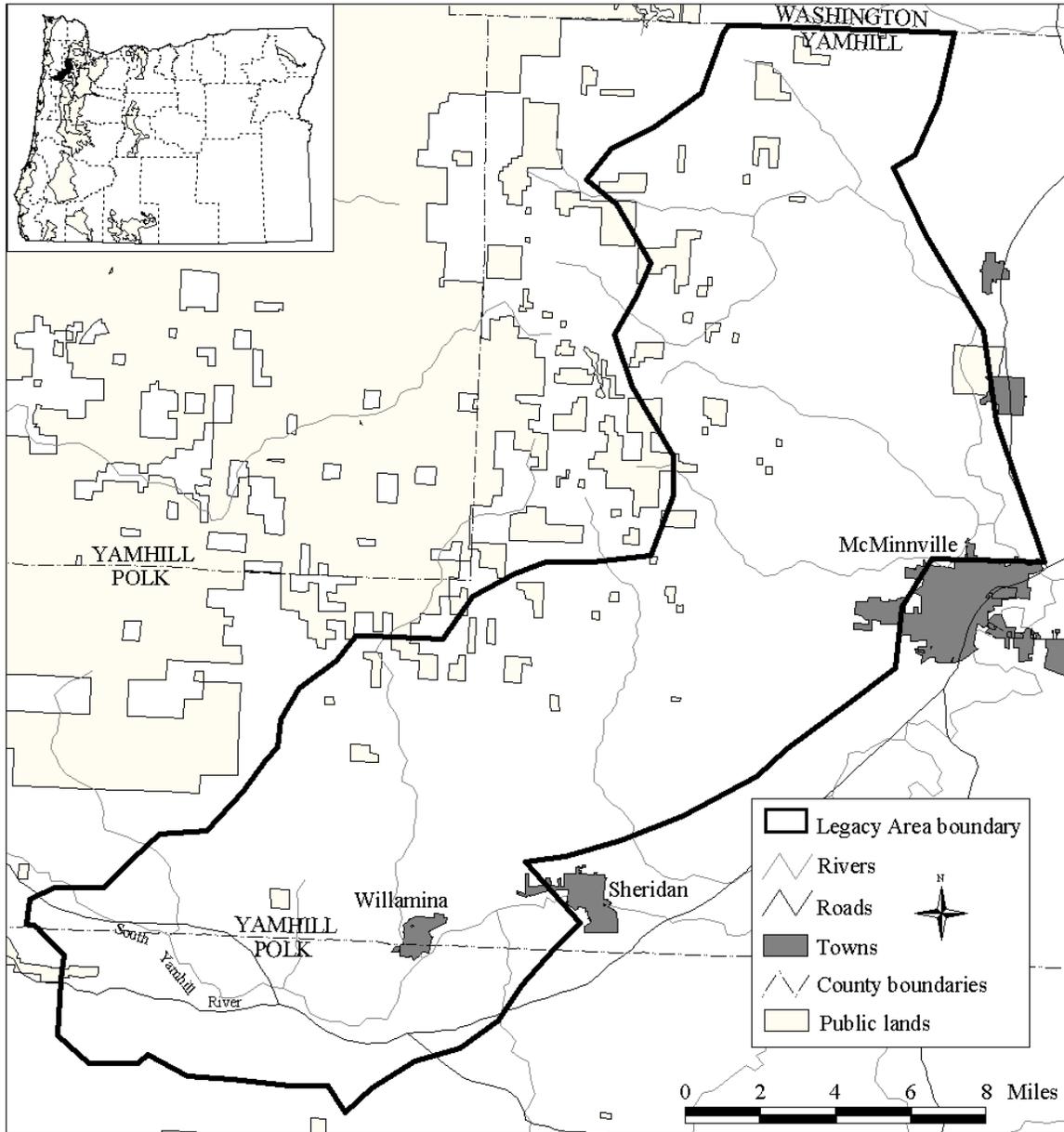


Figure 21. Map of Northern Polk – Yamhill County Foothill Forest Legacy Area

Description: This area includes forest lands east of Salem and Silverton, south to the Linn county border and to the north of Woodburn. The forests and woodlands in the center of this legacy area are those which have shown the greatest percentage of conversion over the last 20 years. As a result of this conversion, many of the best forest lands in Marion County have been developed already, especially in Salem and the foothills south and west of town. Remaining forests in this area tend to be smaller and fragmented, lowering the priority of this legacy area overall.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: This area contains some high quality oak woodlands, along with some riparian bottomlands and conifer forests as well as important wildlife habitats. The most significant private forests are known from the Highway 22 corridor, particularly along the North Santiam River and some forested buttes in the eastern part of the county.

Threats of Conversion: This Marion County legacy area has experienced the greatest forest losses of any of the evaluated areas over the last 20 years, based on the ODF data. Indeed, so many of the forests around the Salem area have been lost that this area almost was excluded because the remaining forests are barely viable. Residential development, particularly in the foothills south and east of Salem, continues to cause forest losses.

Losses and Threats	Significant Values threatened by Conversion
Forest habitats lost since 1850 – 163,449 acres	Total private forest left 89,119 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994 – 28,773 acres	Priority forest habitats ¹ left 15,770 acres
Forest loss predicted – 23,499 acres	Miles of T&E fish habitat 451 miles
Population growth in 1990’s + 56,351 people	T&E species occurrences 81
	Priority wildlife species 3
	Economic – < 5% economically dependent
	Social – Forest recreation, open space, and water quality dependant on forests
	¹ Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Assist watershed protection and enhancement programs by protecting municipal drinking watersheds and key forested riparian habitats from being converted to agricultural and suburban uses.
- 2) Decrease fragmentation of the forests around Salem.
- 3) Assist in protecting endangered species habitat, including habitat for Nelson’s checkermallow and listed salmon.

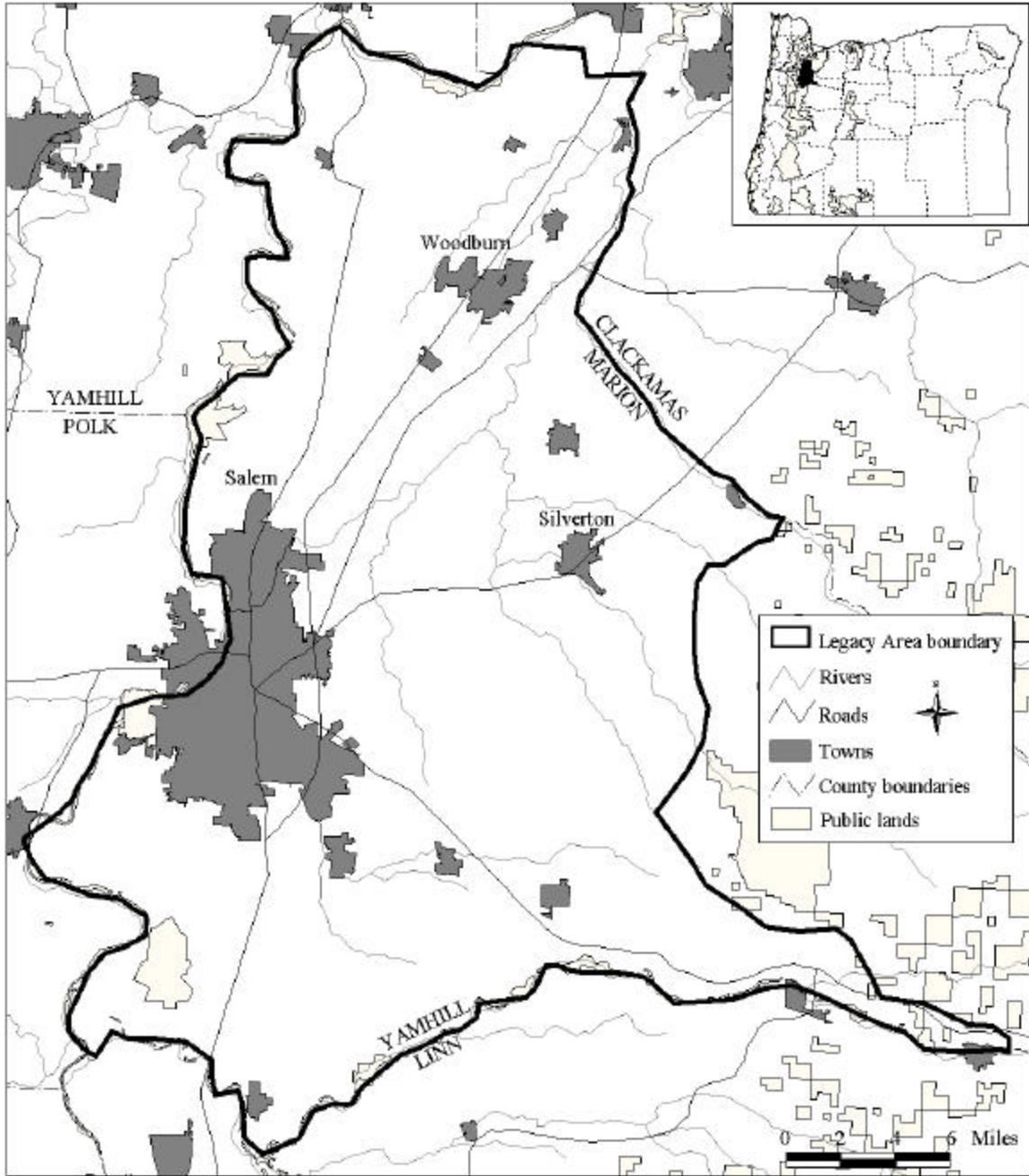


Figure 22. Map of Marion County Forest Legacy Area

Description: This area includes the foothills surrounding the communities of Philomath, Corvallis, Albany, Dallas and west Salem. It is mostly Oregon oak woodlands and Douglas fir forests, mostly along the margins of the Oregon Coast Range.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: This area has some outstanding remnants of valley margin Oregon white oak woodlands and savannas. These habitats are home for a number of endangered fish, wildlife and plant species, making this area one of the most significant from an ecological perspective. The Greenbelt Land Trust, Benton County and the City of Corvallis have all expressed an interest in working with the Forest Legacy Program to protect open space, recreational opportunities, and significant habitats.

Threats of Conversion: All of the communities in or near this legacy area are growing rapidly, often by expanding residential development onto private forests. The forests north and west of Corvallis, and along the corridor between Philomath and Corvallis are under particular threat, as are those in southern Polk County between Salem and Albany, and Albany and Corvallis.

Losses and Threats	Significant Values threatened by Conversion
Forest habitats lost since 1850 ¹ – 10,999 acres	Total private forest left 197,931 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994 – 11,758 acres	Priority forest habitats ² left 29,483 acres
Forest loss predicted – 5463 acres	Miles of T&E fish habitat 146 miles
Population growth in 1990's + 13,342 people	T&E species occurrences 123
	Priority wildlife species 1
	Economic – < 5% economically dependent
	Social – Forest recreation and open space

¹ Historic grasslands and oak savannas have become forests, which are now declining

² Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Protect key forest habitats, including oak woodlands. Focus on the foothills between Corvallis and Philomath, and the foothills west of Salem.
- 2) Protect or provide buffers for key endangered species habitats, including populations of Fender's blue butterfly, Nelson's checker-mallow, and Willamette daisy.
- 3) Provide a tool for watershed councils and local governments to protect key forest riparian and wetland habitats along the Mary's River and Muddy Creek from being converted to agricultural and suburban uses.
- 4) Decrease the fragmentation of the forests and increase recreational opportunities or open space around Corvallis.

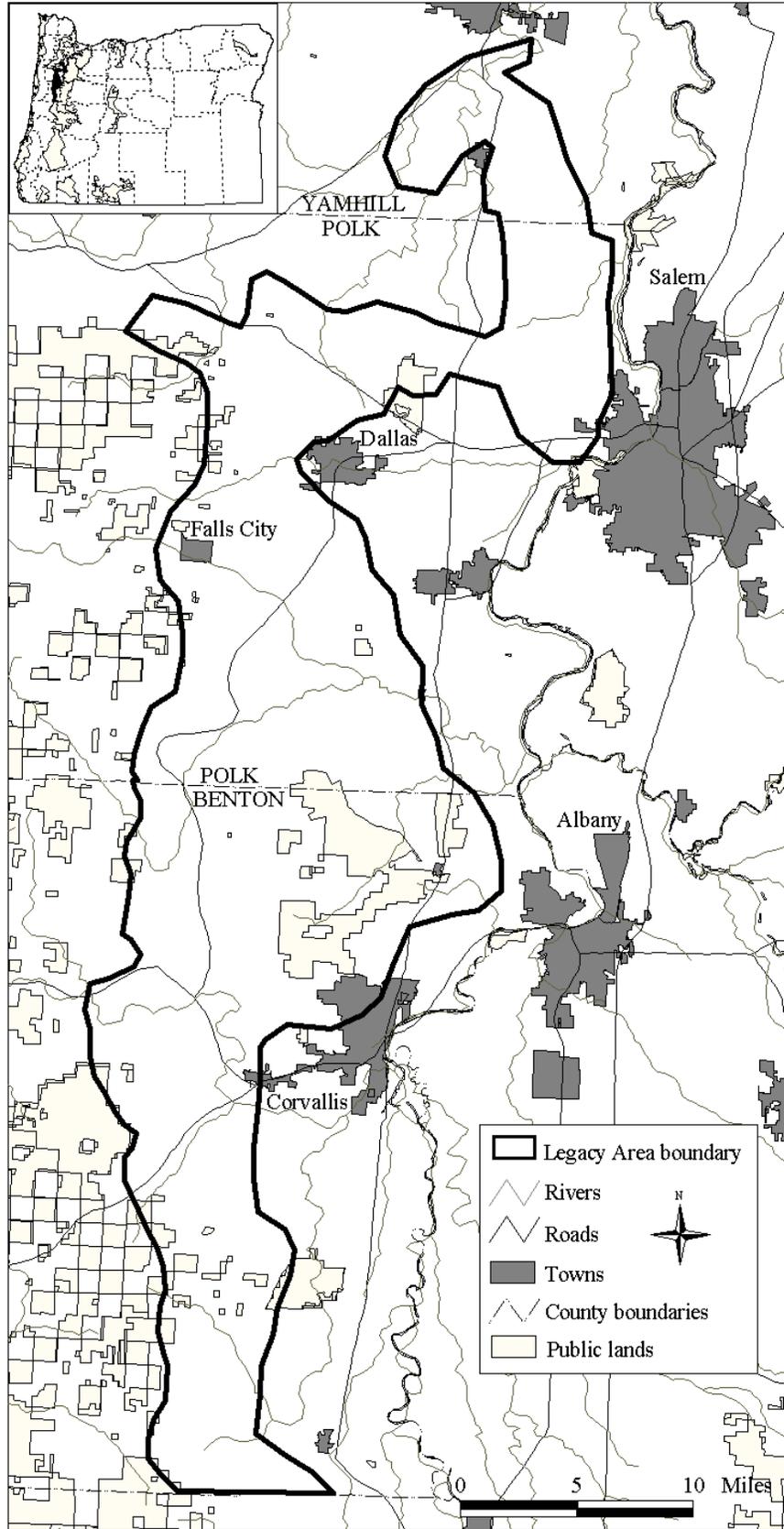


Figure 23. Map of Benton County – Corvallis Foothills – Southern Polk Forest Legacy Area

Description: Eugene and Springfield are on the southern boundary of the area, while the northern boundary is just south of Salem. The area goes west past the town of Corvallis and as far east as Lebanon. This area includes the riparian hardwood forests of the lower Willamette River and its major tributaries in Lane, Benton and Linn counties.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: These forests are critical to the health of the Willamette River, particularly to its native fish and there are a number of efforts to protect and restore these forests through the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. This makes the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Willamette Restoration Initiative excellent partners in this area.

Threats of Conversion: This area has experienced the greatest decline in riparian woodlands and forests in western Oregon – primarily from earlier agricultural development, and more recently from residential growth. Several watershed councils including the Long Tom, McKenzie, Calapooia, Mid Fork Willamette and South Santiam are working on protecting riparian forests in this area and as a result these forests are much less threatened than other Willamette Valley forested areas. However, riverside areas are very attractive to developers, and habitats in Eugene, Corvallis, Harrisburg, and other towns along the Willamette continue to produce new houses.

Losses and Threats	Significant Values threatened by Conversion
Forest habitats lost since 1850 – 83,239 acres	Total private forest left 65,487 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994 – 8,769 acres	Priority forest habitats ² left 10,558 acres
Forest loss predicted – 8,104 acres	Miles of T&E fish habitat 441 miles
Population growth in 1990’s + 11,842 people ¹	T&E species occurrences 299
	Priority wildlife species 3
	Economic – < 5% economically dependent
	Social – Forests critical to water quality & fish

¹ Linn County population growth

² Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Prevent forest conversion by protecting key forested riparian habitats from being converted to agricultural and residential uses.
- 2) Assist activities of the watershed councils to improve habitat for salmon, Oregon chub, and other key aquatic species.
- 3) Reduce agricultural runoff and assist in improving water quality.

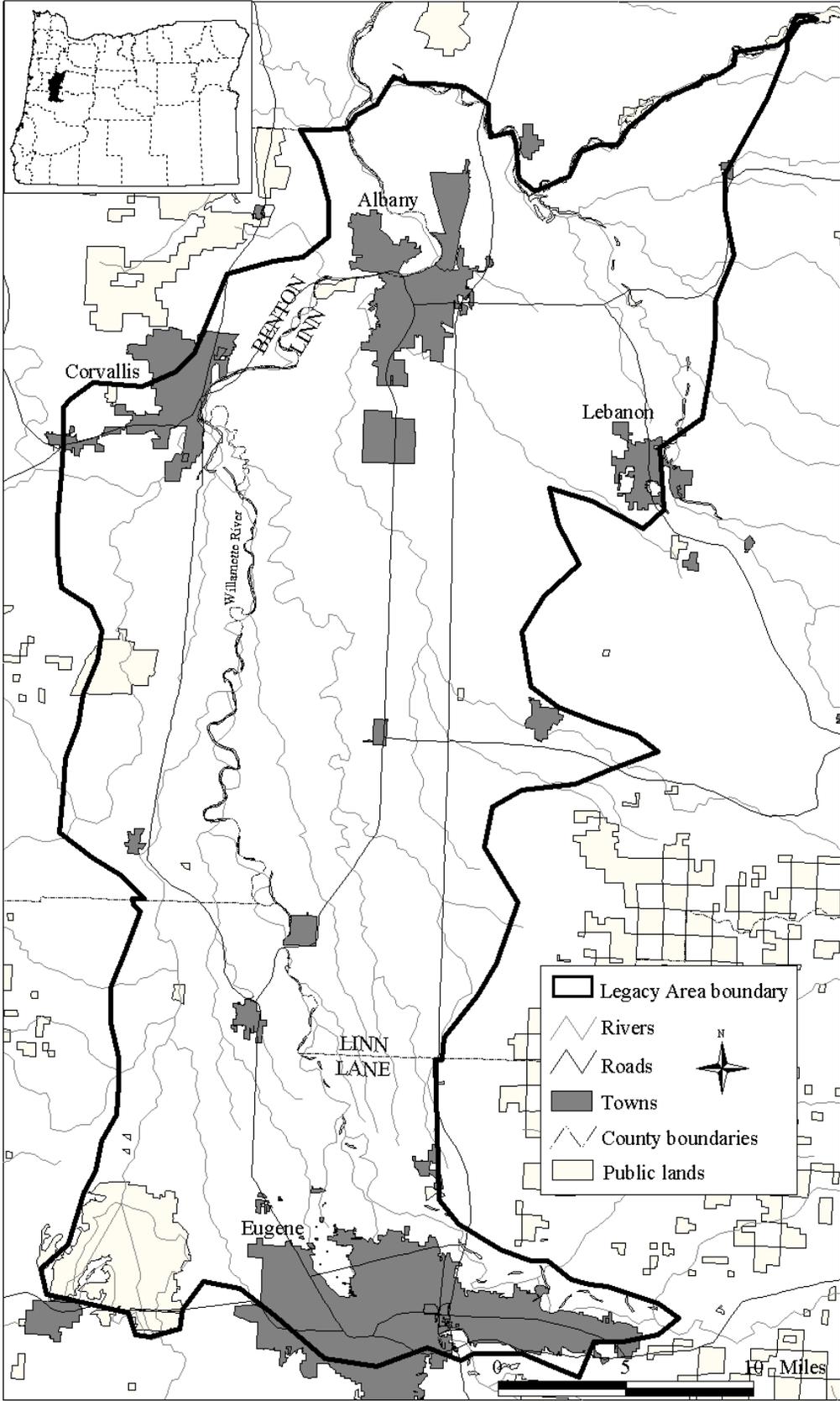


Figure 24. Map of Southern Willamette River Riparian Forest Legacy Area

Description: This area includes the Lane County foothills in and around the communities of Eugene and Springfield. It follows the western edge of the Willamette Valley between Veneta and Cheshire, contains the southern Willamette Valley foothills, and the Coberg Ridge area. It includes extensive and diverse oak woodlands and conifer forests, as well as some important riparian forests.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: The foothills of Lane County include the best quality and most diverse oak woodlands remaining in the Willamette Valley. They have the most northerly stands of California black oak, as well as some of the best remaining oak savannas and mixed conifer woodlands. This legacy area also includes important habitat for many endangered species, including some endemic to forests and woodlands in this area, such as the wayside aster. Together, the ecological values are among the highest in the state.

Lane County and the local, regional government, Lane Council of Governments, are both interested in the protection of forest resources. The McKenzie Land Trust, the City of Eugene and the City of Springfield, as well as The Nature Conservancy have all expressed interest in working with the Forest Legacy Program to protect forests in this area.

Threats of Conversion: Threats are as high here as anywhere in the state with the exception of the Portland metropolitan area and developing areas near Bend. Rural residential development is widespread on the hills south and west of Eugene, and surrounding Springfield. This development continues to lead to forest conversions and fragmentation. The development has also made fuel management, fire suppression, and maintenance of the oak savannas more difficult and expensive.

Losses and Threats	Significant Values threatened by Conversion
Forest habitats lost since 1850 – 79,584 acres	Total private forest left 326,140 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994 – 30,883 acres	Priority forest habitats ² left 85,209 acres
Forest loss predicted – 14,620 acres	Miles of T&E fish habitat 212 miles
Population growth in 1990's + 40,047 people ¹	T&E species occurrences 383
	Priority wildlife species 8
	Economic – 5-10% dependant & distressed
	Social – Forest recreation and open space

¹ Lane County population growth

² Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Protect key forest habitats, including oak woodlands. The primary focus initially would be on the foothills adjacent to Eugene and Springfield.
- 2) Protect or provide buffers for key endangered species habitats, including populations of Fender's blue butterfly, wayside aster, Bradshaw's lomatium and Willamette daisy.
- 3) Increase protection of open space, reduce fragmentation of the forests, and increase recreational opportunities by focusing on the forest ridgetop trail system around Eugene and Springfield.
- 4) Reduce fuels and increase ability of managers to use fire to maintain oak and conifer savannas.

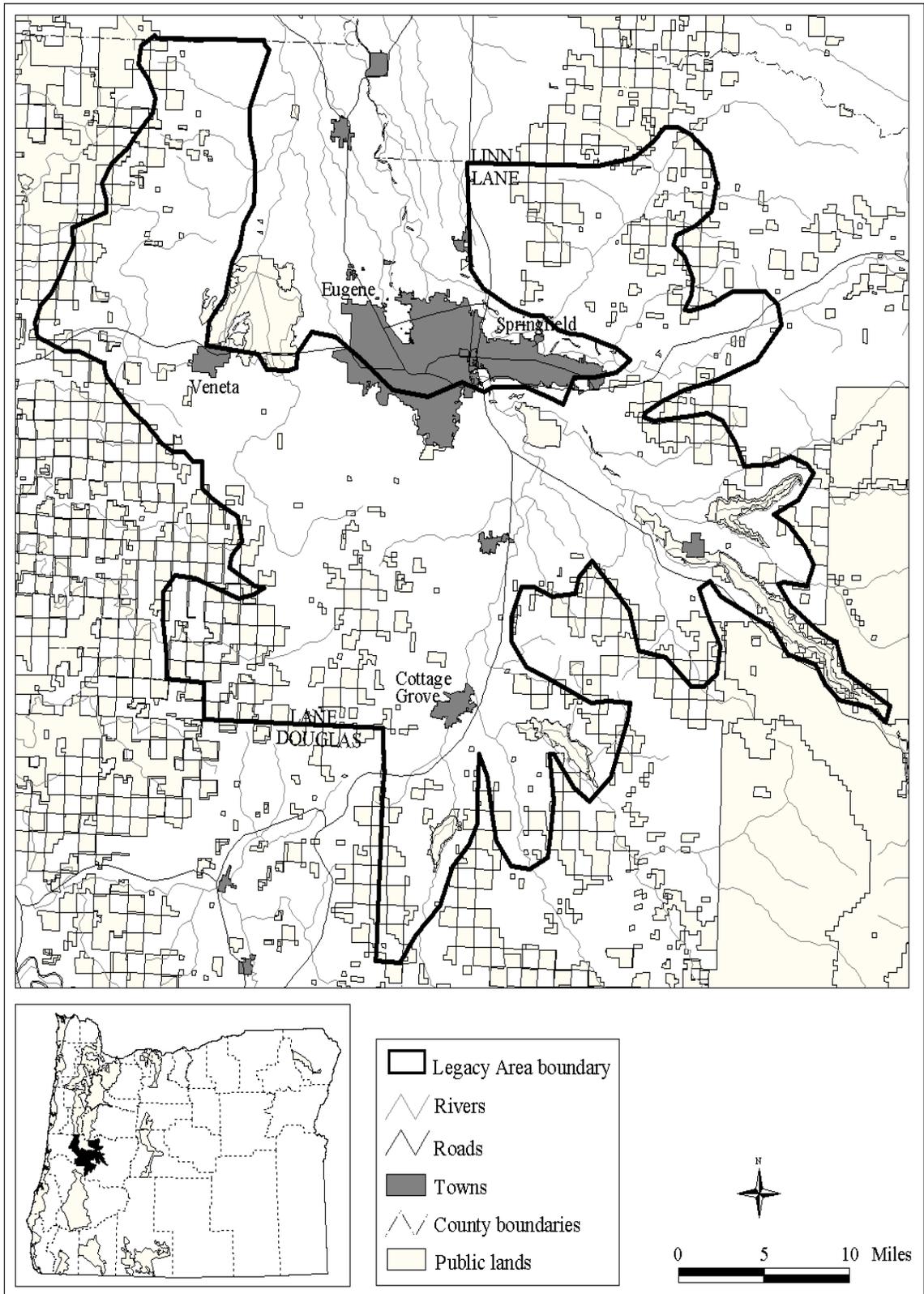


Figure 25. Map of Eugene – Springfield Forest Legacy Area

C. Klamath Mountains Forest Legacy Areas

Many of the forests are well represented on the federal lands that comprise 51 percent of the ecoregion. The region also has large and diverse federally and state owned protected areas which have excellent examples of most of the forest types, although these tend not to include the lower elevation, oak and pine woodlands. Over the last 20 years, most of the population growth has been centered in the Rogue River Valley, between Medford and Ashland. The remainder of the region has been growing more slowly, but pressure may increase in the near future, especially in the Grants Pass and southern Josephine County areas. Four potential legacy areas were evaluated, and three were selected for inclusion in the Oregon Forest Legacy Program.

Umpqua Valley and Foothills Forest Legacy Area

Priority – 4

Description: This is a large area which is a mix of oak savanna, farmlands, pastures, small towns, and conifer forests. There are actually a number of small valleys and foothills centered around the larger central Umpqua Valley, near the confluence of the North and South Umpqua Rivers.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: This area contains some of the largest remaining oak savannas and woodlands in Oregon, with Oregon white oak, California black oak, madrone and mixed hardwood-conifer forests as well. This area also has some of the best low-elevation examples of mixed conifer and Ponderosa pine forests and woodlands – and very little public land. This legacy area has a large number of endangered species occurrences, and important priority wildlife value.

The county and the town of Roseburg have expressed an interest in the Forest Legacy Program, and there is potential interest from local land trusts and the Umpqua Basin Watershed Council. Douglas County has been one of the most timber-dependent communities, and remains economically stressed due to limited timber availability.

Threats of Conversion: The area is rural, but the towns of Roseburg, Sutherland, Oakland have been growing steadily. Growth has been steady in Douglas County, and development pressure on valley margin forests continues to exist. Conversion also greatly decreases the ability of federal land managers to address natural fire patterns, to fight fires and complete prescribed burns.

Losses and Threats	Significant Values threatened by Conversion
Forest habitats lost since 1850 – 209,582 acres	Total private forest left 284,857 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994 – 25,486 acres	Priority forest habitats ¹ left 98,091 acres
Forest loss predicted – 16,665 acres	Miles of T&E fish habitat 810 miles
Population growth in 1990’s + 5,750 people	T&E species occurrences 430
	Priority wildlife species 6
	Economic – > 10% dependant on forests and Economically distressed area
	Social – Forests key to recreation & economy
	¹ Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Protect key forest habitats, including oak woodlands, Ponderosa pine woodlands and mixed conifer forests.
- 2) Protect or provide buffers for key endangered species habitats, including populations of Columbia white-tailed deer, hairy popcorn flower and pink-root yampah.

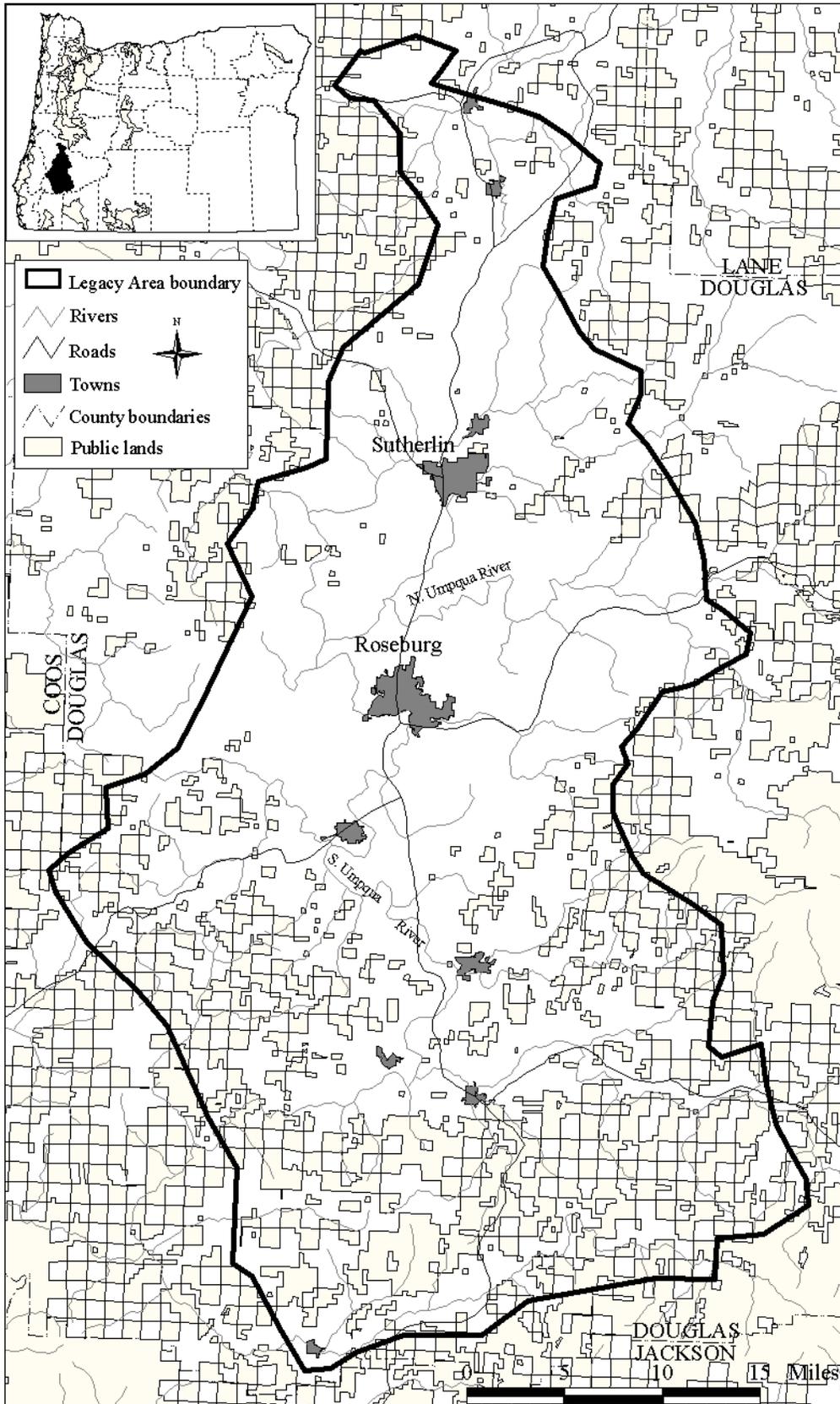


Figure 26. Map of Umpqua Valley and Foothills Forest Legacy Area

- 3) Assist the watershed protection and enhancement programs by protecting key forested riparian habitats along the North and South Umpqua rivers, and major tributaries from being converted to agricultural and rural residential uses.
- 4) Maintain productive private timberlands as a source of timber to supply local wood products industries.
- 5) Increase ability of managers to address fire hazards, assist in wildland fuels management, and increase managers' ability to use prescribed fires, especially in the wildland-urban interface.

Description: This area contains the forest lands of the Illinois River valley, a large tributary of the Rogue River. It goes from the California border, north to the town of Selma, with most of the population centered around Cave Junction. It includes forests, farmlands, and some rangelands, but is becoming increasingly residential.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: This area includes Oregon’s greatest concentration of rare and endangered plant species, and some very significant forest habitats found nowhere else. Part of an area with unusual, heavily mineralized (serpentine) soils, the forests contain Oregon’s best examples of knobcone pine, Jeffrey pine, Port-Orford-cedar and canyon live oak. The legacy area has good examples of Oregon white oak woodlands, Ponderosa pine woodlands, and mixed serpentine forests. It is also one of the most important for endangered fish and for priority wildlife species, making it one of the most ecologically significant sites in the state. The area has also long been heavily dependent on timber production, and the maintenance of the private timber base is critical to the local economy. To date, the local community has focused largely on public forest land issues.

Threats of Conversion: The Illinois Valley has experienced extensive forest conversion, particularly for rural residential development. However, especially over the last few years, development has slowed, currently occurring more slowly than in the Rogue Valley, the Willamette Valley or the Bend area. Rural residential development, based on retirement and recreation, continues to provide sources of forest conversions.

Losses and Threats		Significant Values threatened by Conversion	
Forest habitats lost since 1850	- 9,223 acres	Total private forest left	87,256 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994	- 10,984 acres	Priority forest habitats ¹ left	29,085 acres
Forest loss predicted	- 5494 acres	Miles of T&E fish habitat	118 miles
Population growth in 1990’s	+ 13,077 people	T&E species occurrences	570
		Priority wildlife species	2
		Economic – 5-10% dependent on forests & economically distressed area	
		Social – Forests key to economy and recreation	

¹ Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Protect key forest habitats, including oak (white oak, black oak, madrone and canyon live oak) woodlands and low-elevation pine (Jeffrey, knobcone, Ponderosa and sugar) woodlands. The primary focus would be on the foothills adjacent to Cave Junction, as well as near the small towns of Selma, O’Brien and Takilma.
- 2) Protect or provide buffers for key endangered plant species (state listed species, federally listed species, and state and federal candidate species).
- 3) Assist the protection of listed fish, and watershed protection and enhancement programs by protecting key forested riparian habitats along the Illinois River from being converted to agricultural and suburban uses.
- 4) Maintain productive private timberlands as a source of timber to supply local wood products industries.
- 5) Enhance ability of managers to address fire hazards and assist in wildland fuels management, especially in the wildland-urban interface.

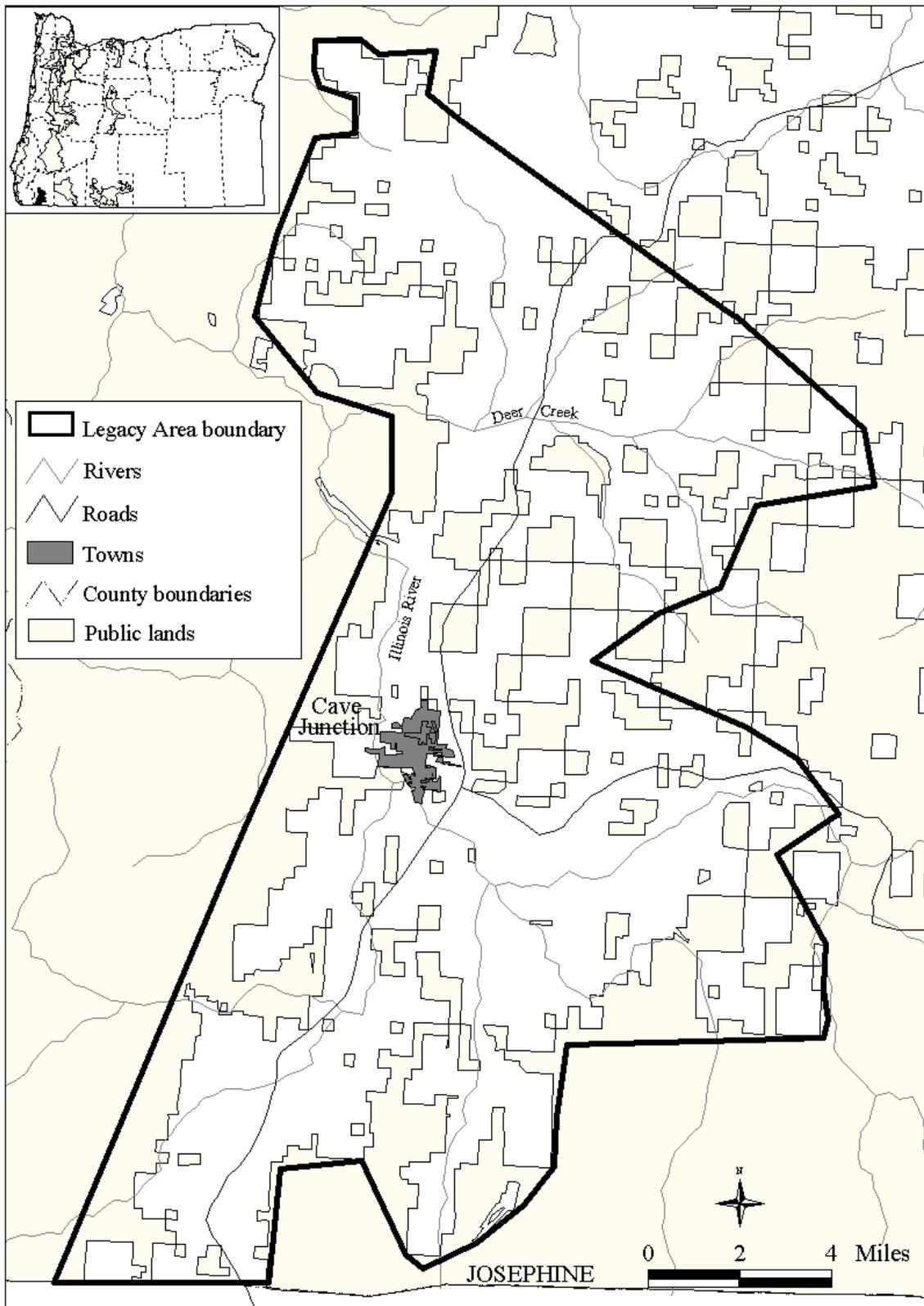


Figure 27. Map of Illinois Valley Forest Legacy Area

Description: This large valley heads from Shady Cove south almost to the California border and the foothills of Ashland. Centered around the city of Medford, it includes oak, pine, and Douglas fir forests and woodlands, industrial centers, extensive orchards and agricultural development. This area is also a major focus for tourism in the state.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: This area contains excellent examples of oak savanna, oak woodlands, riparian bottomland forests, and low-elevation ponderosa pine forests and woodlands. The area has large concentrations of endangered fish, wildlife and plant species, and has the densest concentrations of priority forest wildlife species. The overall ecological values are as high as any area in the state.

The valley margins and foothills are a mix of BLM and private lands, and this mix of ownership creates the opportunity for numerous partnerships. The Southern Oregon Land Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy are both working on protecting forest legacy priority habitats in this area. Jackson County has worked hard through its land-use plans to assure that the highly productive forests lands continue to be protected from development. However, they feel the Forest Legacy Program might provide an additional tool to assist private landowners interested in protecting their forests from development.

Threats of Conversion: The Rogue Valley and foothills are the fastest growing area in this ecoregion, second in the state only to Bend and the Portland metro area. Rural residential and suburban development is occurring throughout the area, and agricultural and recreational development of forests is increasing.

Losses and Threats	Significant Values threatened by Conversion
Forest habitats lost since 1850 – 185,123 acres	Total private forest left 160,604 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994 – 15,525 acres	Priority forest habitats ¹ left 67,344 acres
Forest loss predicted – 12,301 acres	Miles of T&E fish habitat 117 miles
Population growth in 1990’s + 34,880 people	T&E species occurrences 324
	Priority wildlife species 14
	Economic – 5-10% dependent on forests
	Social – Forest recreation important

¹ Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Protect key forest habitats, including oak woodlands and savanna, Ponderosa pine woodlands, and unique riparian forested habitats.
- 2) Protect or provide buffers for key endangered species habitats, including populations of the vernal pool fairy shrimp, Cook’s desert parsley and large-flowered wooly meadow foam.
- 3) Assist the protection of listed fish, and watershed protection and enhancement programs by protecting key forested riparian habitats along Bear Creek and the Rogue River from being converted to agricultural, urban and suburban uses.
- 4) Maintain productive private timberlands as a source of timber to supply local wood products industries.
- 5) Increase ability of managers to address fire hazards and assist in wildland fuels management.

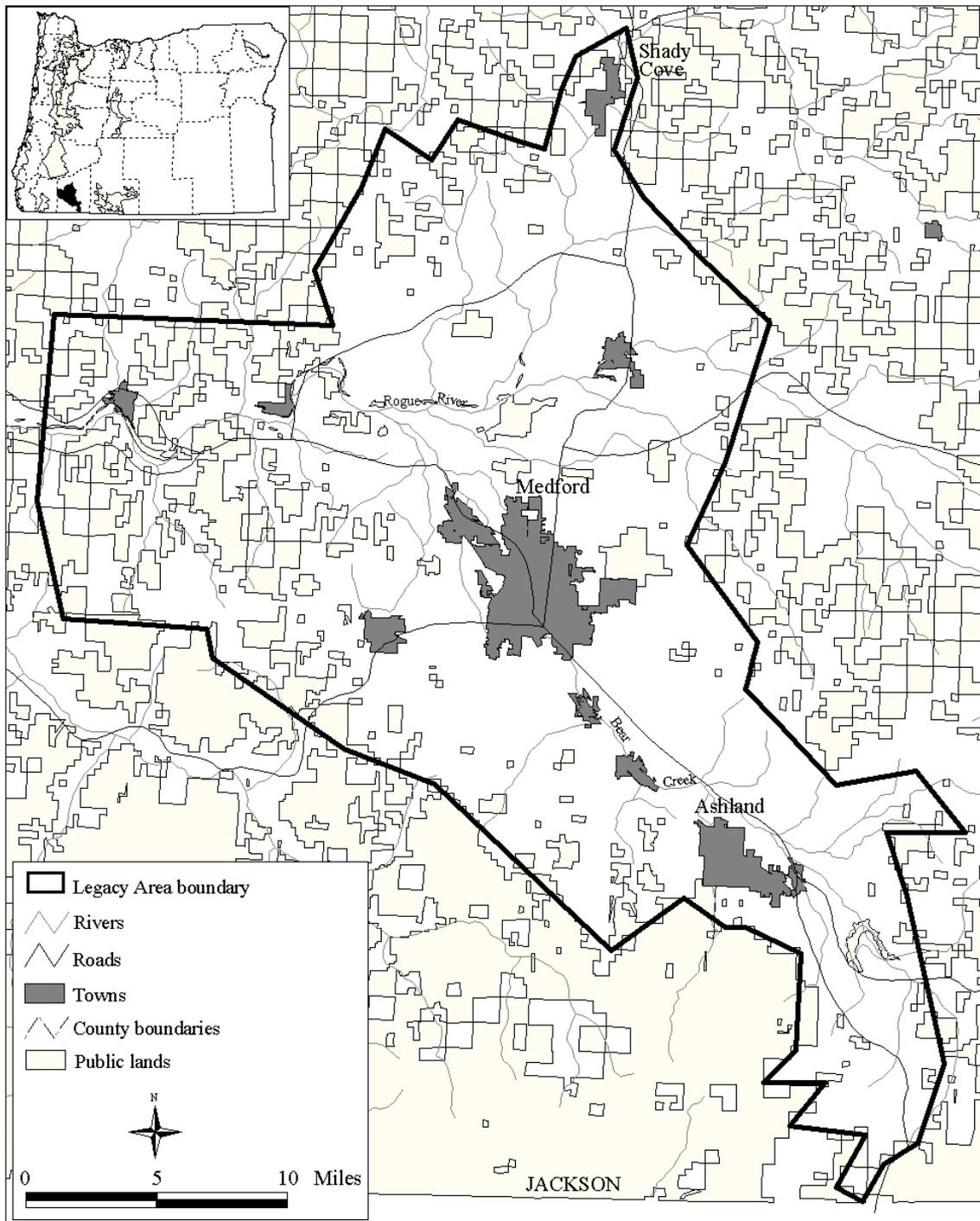


Figure 28. Map of Rogue Valley – Bear Creek Forest Legacy Area

D. East Cascades Forest Legacy Areas

Most of the East Cascades Slopes and Foothills Ecoregion is publicly owned, although there are some large, forested private landholdings, mostly located around Bend, Klamath Falls and the Columbia Gorge ? the locations of the three legacy areas.

Wasco ? Hood River Forest Legacy Area

Priority – 5

Description: This area includes the private forest lands within the Columbia River Gorge, the margins of the Hood River Valley, the foothills of The Dalles, and the lowest slopes of the East Cascades south to the White River canyon. It includes the northeastern limit of Oregon oak in the state, spectacular cliffs and scenery, and is among Oregon’s centers of tourism.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: The area is particularly diverse, with a number of western Oregon tree species, most notably Oregon white oak, traveling through the Columbia Gorge to create unique habitats here. The oak woodlands and savannas, and oak-ponderosa pine forests are particularly significant. Many of these forests are protected on public lands, and funding provided by the establishment of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area has greatly increased forest protection. However, forest acquisitions have resulted in local concerns over removing lands from the tax base. Therefore, easements are likely to be more successful in this legacy area than fee title acquisitions. The Columbia Land Trust and the Deschutes Land Trust have expressed an interest in working with forest landowners in this area.

Threats of Conversion: Impacted by growth in and around the Columbia River Gorge, forest habitats around Hood River and The Dalles have declined. Rural residential and recreational housing continues to expand into forested areas, although not as quickly as most of the other legacy areas.

Losses and Threats		Significant Values threatened by Conversion	
Forest habitats lost since 1850 ¹	+15 acres	Total private forest left	134,104 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994	NA	Priority forest habitats ² left	80,116 acres
Forest loss predicted	NA	Miles of T&E fish habitat	147 miles
Population growth in 1990’s	+ 5,616 people	T&E species occurrences	58
		Priority wildlife species	2
		Economic – < 5% economically dependent	
		Social – Forests & recreation key to economy	

¹ Forests have expanded here since 1851

² Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Increase capacity for fire hazard reduction and wildland fuels management, and improve forest health especially in the wildland-urban interface near The Dalles and Hood River.
- 2) Protect oak woodland and ponderosa pine habitats, and restore natural fire regimes critical to these habitats.
- 3) Assist in protecting riparian forests for key streams, including the White River, Hood River and Mill Creek.
- 4) Protect endangered species including fish and the obscure buttercup.
- 5) Protect the forests within transition zone between the commercial forests and the urban zone.

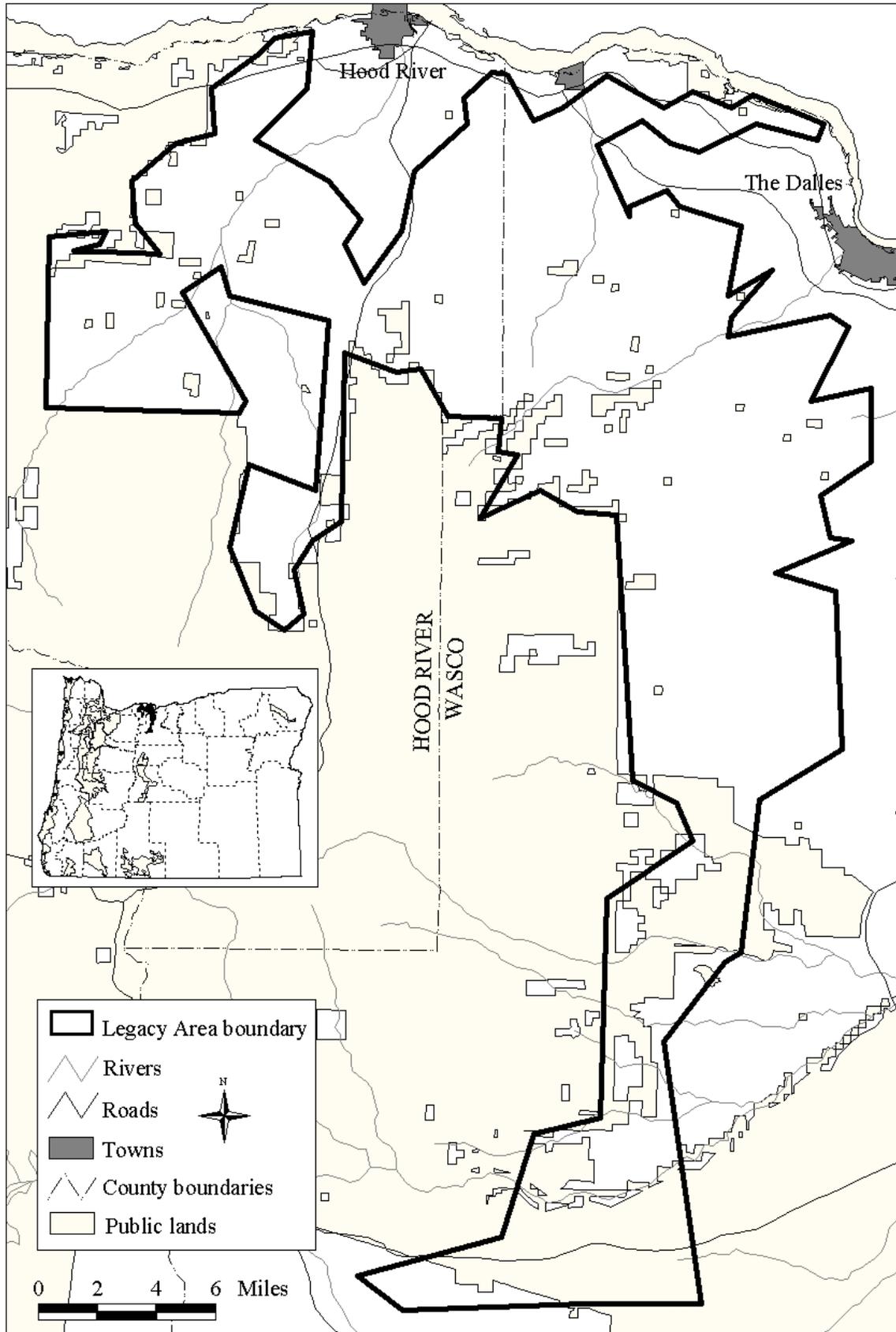


Figure 29. Map of Wasco ? Hood River Forest Legacy Area

Description: This area includes the large, rapidly developing Bend region, extending from the recreational Metolius area to the north, south to La Pine and the Sun River Resort. It is primarily ponderosa pine forests in the East Cascades region of Deschutes and southern Jefferson County, but includes mixed pine and western juniper, as well as some extremely high quality riparian forests and shrublands along the Deschutes and Metolius Rivers.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: This area has the largest concentration of Ponderosa pine forests and woodlands in Oregon, a priority habitat type. While the legacy area includes more public lands than the other areas, the pine forests in the public-private matrix are ecologically and socially important. The area includes riparian habitats, extensive wetlands, and western juniper. All of these forests types are important for wildlife, endangered species and bull trout. Peck’s penstemon is an endemic plant found only in Ponderosa pine forests in this legacy area. Both the Deschutes Land Trust and the Pacific Forest Trust are working in this area, and the local community is interested in the Forest Legacy Program.

Threats of Conversion: This legacy area includes the second fastest growing area in Oregon. Pine forests are giving way to housing and recreational and urban development throughout the region. Recreational growth, primarily of summer homes, is prevalent on the private lands throughout the area, from Sun River to the Metolius. Expansion of winter recreation also has lead to forest conversion. Population growth has also greatly influenced the health of the adjacent wildland forests, since natural fire is critical to the maintenance of pine forests. Using prescribed fire to lower fuel levels, and restoring natural fire regimes has become increasingly difficult with the expansion of housing in these forests.

Losses and Threats		Significant Values threatened by Conversion	
Forest habitats lost since 1850	– 7560 acres	Total private forest left	186,673 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994	NA	Priority forest habitats ¹ left	95,248 acres
Forest loss predicted	NA	Miles of T&E fish habitat	30 miles
Population growth in 1990’s	+ 40,508 people	T&E species occurrences	32
		Priority wildlife species	9
		Economic – < 5% economically dependent	
		Social – Recreation key to economy	
		Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands	

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Protect key forest habitats, primarily Ponderosa pine forests and woodlands, but also some riparian forests. Help restore a more natural fire regime to these forests and improve forest health.
- 2) Provide a critical buffer in the transition zone between the commercial or federal forests and the communities of Bend, La Pine, Sun River, Metolius and other large residential zones, to allow for prescribed fires and assist fire fighting.
- 3) Protect or provide buffers for sensitive species habitats, including bull trout and Peck’s penstemon, as well as critical deer and elk wintering areas.

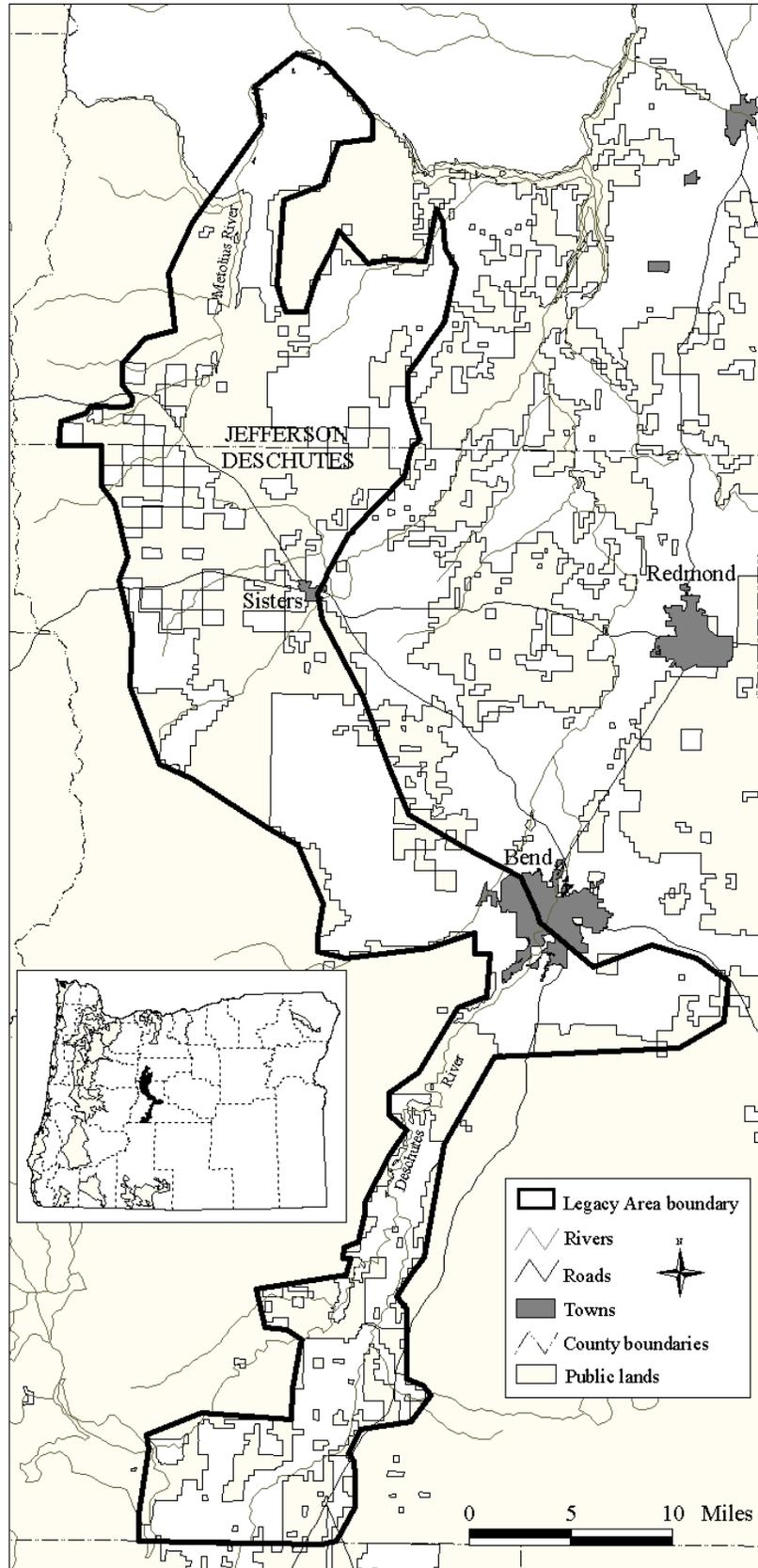


Figure 30. Map of Bend – La Pine – Metolius Forest Legacy Area

Description: This area is most of the southern portions of Klamath County in the East Cascades Ecoregion. It includes the foothills west of Klamath Falls, south to the California border and east almost to Lake County. It mostly includes low foothills of mixed Ponderosa pine and western juniper, agricultural and pasture lands, and some large remnant wetlands. The large, private industrial timberlands on the eastern edge of this area were excluded due to lack of conversion threats.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: This is a diverse mix of open ponderosa pine forests and woodlands, western juniper woodlands, and sagebrush steppe. It includes a very unusual oak woodland area, well outside its normal range, and is one of the areas in eastern Oregon with the greatest historical forest losses. The large areas of adjacent wetlands make this area very important to wildlife. Forests provide shade to cool streams for endangered species, including salmon and two species of sucker important to the local tribes, and are used for roosting by the largest wintering concentration of bald eagles in the country. Local partners have not been identified here.

Threats of Conversion: Historically, the area has seen major conversions of forest lands to agriculture, especially in the southern part of this legacy area. The northwestern area is close to Klamath Falls, which has seen some expansion of rural residential development. However, growth and forest conversion have been occurring slowly over the last decade.

Losses and Threats		Significant Values threatened by Conversion	
Forests lost since 1850	- 174,966 acres	Total private forest left	257,020 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994	NA	Priority forest habitats ¹ left	143,662 acres
Forest loss predicted	NA	Miles of T&E fish habitat	69 miles
Population growth in 1990's	+6,073 people	T&E species occurrences	192
		Priority wildlife species	23
		Economic – > 10% dependent on timber	
		Social – Forest and wildlife recreation important	

¹ Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Protect key forest habitats, including oak woodlands and Ponderosa pine forests.
- 2) Assist with riparian, wetland and watershed protection to improve fish habitats, increase water yields and protect sensitive species like the red-root yampah and the bald eagle.
- 3) Assist in the creation of a working forest with open canopy to allow for restoration of a more natural fire regime, to reduce fire damage and improve forest health.
- 4) Maintain productive private timberlands as a source of timber to supply local wood products industries.

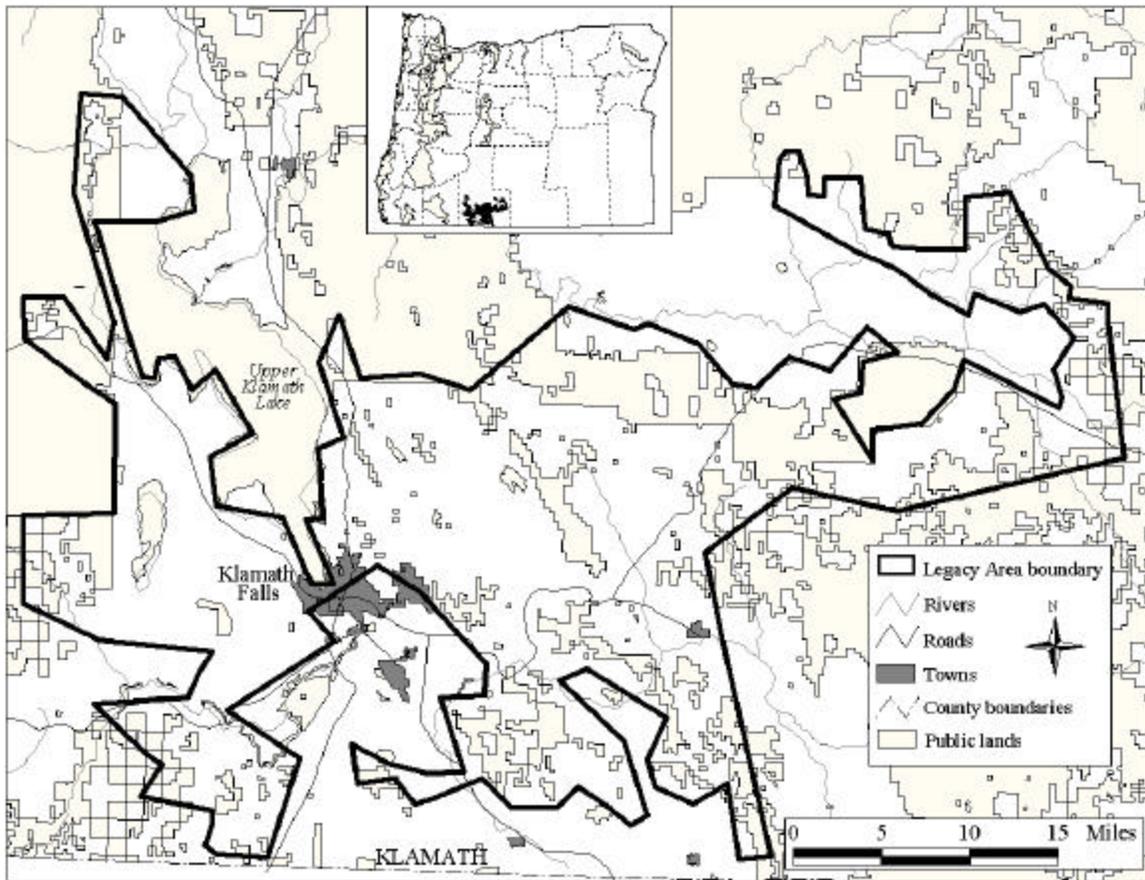


Figure 31. Map of Southern Klamath – Klamath Falls Forest Legacy Area

E. Blue Mountains Forest Legacy Areas

As was the case in the East Cascades, most of the forests in this ecoregion are publicly owned. Private forests tend to be owned by large timber companies, and operate outside of residential or urban areas. In general, population has not been increasing here, so threats of forest conversion to development are limited. However, the management of forests, both on private and public lands, and the restoration of natural fire regimes are key issues here.

Wallowa Forest Legacy Area

Priority – 7

Description: This region includes the Wallowa Valley, extending from Joseph on the east to just west of the town of Wallowa. It includes the large valley bottoms of mixed farmlands and wetland forests, and the southern flanks of the Wallowa Mountains, with Ponderosa pine and some grand fir, western larch and Engelmann spruce. It is among the most spectacular and scenic areas in Oregon.

Significant Ecological, Social and Economic Values: The cottonwood riparian woodlands of the Wallowa, Hurricane Creek and Lostine rivers represent the largest remaining riparian woodlands in the state. Their significance for fish and wildlife is well known, and the Grande Ronde Watershed Council is undertaking efforts to assure they are maintained and, if possible, expanded. The Wallowa Valley also includes some mountain alder-aspen-spruce bottomland forests which are found only there. These forests and their associated bogs and wetlands are priority habitats that are not well protected. Local concerns about increasing the public land base and decreasing the private land base make conservation easements preferable to fee title acquisition by the government. A Wallowa County NGO, Wallowa Resources, is working to promote forest products and sustainable forestry, and may be a local partner.

Threats of Conversion: Expanding recreational pressure is resulting in increased housing development and conversion of part of this area. Since overall population has declined in the county, the rate of development is much slower than some other legacy areas. However, the newer, recreational development has been focused on the foothill woodlands and the streamside areas, both of which are priority habitats for Oregon.

Losses and Threats		Significant Values threatened by Conversion	
Forests lost since 1850	- 38,050 acres	Total private forest left	34,091 acres
Forests lost 1974-1994	NA	Priority forest habitats ¹ left	1,638 acres
Forest loss predicted	NA	Miles of T&E fish habitat	236 miles
Population growth in 1990's	+ 315 people	T&E species occurrences	29
		Priority wildlife species	1
		Economic – 5-10% dependent & distressed	
		Social – Recreation & timber economy	
		¹ Riparian, oak, and pine forests and woodlands	

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Protect key forest habitats, particularly the extensive cottonwood forests, and the unique aspen-mountain alder or spruce riparian forests. This will also assist in watershed protection and enhancement programs, and protect key listed fish spawning areas.
- 2) Maintain productive private timberlands as a source of timber to supply local wood products industries.
- 3) Reduce fire hazards, assist in wildland fuels management, and improve forest health especially in the wildland-urban interface.

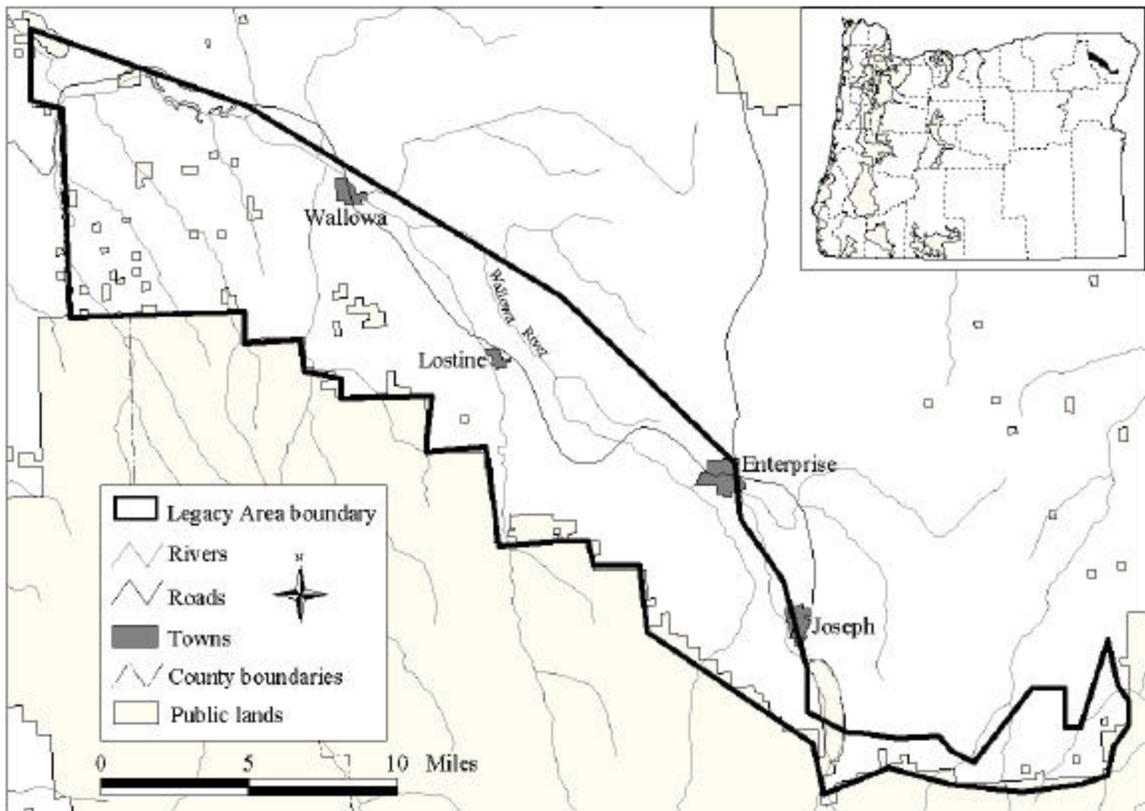


Figure 32. Map of Wallowa Forest Legacy Area.