



Aster curtus, and Horkelia congesta.

- Plans for managing this property are focussed on maintaining oak savanna habitat and stopping the encroachment of Douglas–fir on the site.
- Protects potential habitat for over 200 species of vertebrate wildlife, including 8 species listed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as sensitive species that are in need of additional consideration to avoid future TElistings.
- Provides opportunity to inform the public about the ecological and cultural importance of oak habitat, and to demonstrate appropriate management techniques.
- Provides protection of high–quality visual resources which contribute greatly to the sense of place in the Eugene Springfield metropolitan area. Promotes and enhances Eugene’s economic health.
- Provides protection of Oregon white oak savanna, a critically imperiled habitat, both globally and state–wide according to The Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center.
- Provides protection of upland headwater streams of Willow Creek which flows through a 500 acre wet prairie reserve owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy.
- The project area has been identified by The Nature Conservancy’s Eco–Regional Assessment as having both a high conservation value and a high vulnerability rating.
- The project area, in close proximity to residential areas, is used for bird–watching, hiking, mountain biking, and environmental education.
- The property will be part of an extened recreational and habitat corridor which will connect Fern Ridge Reservoir and the Eugene Wetlands to the west with Spencer Butte and Moon Mountain to the east.
- This tract connects existing public properties will provide excellent public access for trail head and auto parking use.
- Three regional conservation plans authored by an environmental org., and a state and a federal agency have identify the values of this area.

**Threatened:**

- If property is not protected it most certainly will convert to residential development. Adjacent properties are currently being developed.
- Population increase in the Pacific Northwest is twice the national rate and demand for high value residential home sites is great. Eugene–Springfield is the second largest metropolitan area in the State.

- Project properties are highly scenic and inside Eugene's Urban Growth Boundary where the threat of partitioning and development is intensified.
- Willamette Valley Oak savanna habitat is threatened by land use change and by conifers encroachment, which over time, shade out oak. Wildfire historically kept conifers out of valley oak woodlands and svannas.

### **Strategic:**

- Builds on existing local and regional efforts already in place. Natural resource preservation in general, and the Ridgeline Park System in particular, have very strong local support and vocal advocates. The 1998 Parks & Open Spaces bond measure passed with a solid 2/3 majority.
- Complements and provides connections to existing conservation investments in the Southern Willamette Valley, including: Fern Ridge Reservoir and Fern Ridge Wildlife Management Area; West Eugene Wetlands and the Willow Creek Preserve; Eugene's Parks & Open Space system (2,500 acres), including the Willamette River Greenway (450 acres) and South Hills Ridgeline Park (1000 acres).
- Increases the feasibility to use fire as a management tool. By having large parcels in public ownership, the probability of using sustainable forestry practices and reducing fuels on the parcels would be increased. Fire safety of the more heavily developed north slopes of Eugene's south hills could be increased.
- Managing for oak savanna provides Douglas–fir timber products for local economy.
- Supports local, regional, state, and eco–regional conservation efforts.
- The project is supported by local plans including: Eugene Parks and Rec Plan (1989); Eugene Parks, Rec and Open Space Comprehensive Plan (2005 draft); West Eugene Wetlands (2000); Stormwater Corridor Mgt Plans (2002); Willow Cr Special Area Study; South Hills Study; County Comprehensive LUP.
- The project is supportive of the goals of 'Rivers to Ridges' the comprehensive Metro Parks and Open Space plan adopted unanimously by The City of Eugene, Lane County, City of Springfield, and Willamalane Parks & Recreation District.
- Tract is adjacent of a publicly own 123–acre oak woodland/savanna. This tract will be managed as one oak habitat type with this existing tract.

### **Ready:**

- Appraisal completed.
- FLP funds will be effectively leveraged with local Parks & Open Space bond funding. These funds have already purchased over 350 acres of south hills habitat over the past three years.
- Project is consistent with all applicable city, county, and state planning and zoning regulations.
- Property owner donating \$113,000 towards the total appraised purchased price.
- Signed purchase option with owner.
- Significant local resources have been spent on adjacent lands, and city funds are available from the POS Bond Measure.
- The City of Eugene has an extremely successful track record of land acquisition.

- Willingness and determination of the seller as well as the availability of match funding funds makes it highly likely that the City will be able to close on the property quickly.
- Supporting parties include: American Bird Conservancy, Audubon Society, Bureau of Land Management, Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of Eugene, Lane Council of Governments, Lane County Parks, Long Tom Watershed Council, McKenzie River Land Trust, Native Plant Society of Oregon, Obsidians, Inc, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Southeast Neighborhood Association and The Nature Conservancy

For more information on the Forest Legacy Program, contact:

**Kathryn J. Conant**

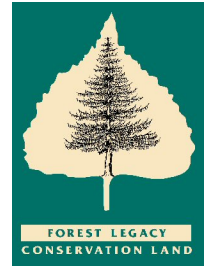
*National Forest Legacy  
Program Coordinator*  
USDA Forest Service  
State & Private Forestry  
1400 Independence Avenue,  
4SE  
Washington, DC 20250  
202-401-4072  
202-205-1271 fax  
[kconant@fs.fed.us](mailto:kconant@fs.fed.us)

**James Geiger**

*Forest Legacy Program  
Coordinator*  
USDA Forest Service  
Pacific Northwest Region  
333 SW 1st Avenue  
Portland, OR 97208  
530-759-1746  
530-756-4324 fax  
[jgeiger@fs.fed.us](mailto:jgeiger@fs.fed.us)

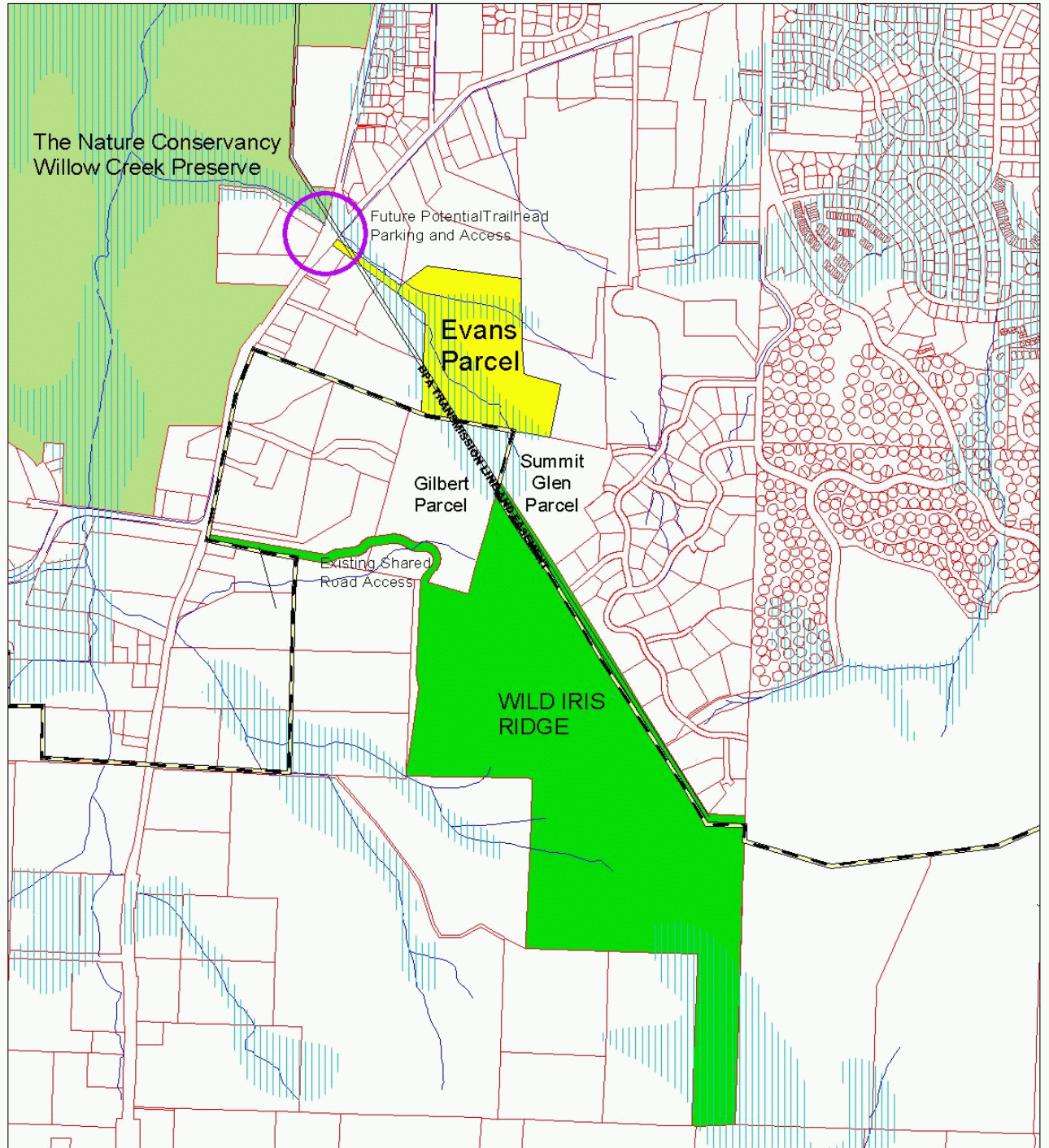
**Jim Cathcart**

*Forest Legacy Program  
Coordinator*  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
2600 State Street  
Salem, OR 97310  
503-945-7493  
541-945-7490 fax  
[jcathcart@odf.state.or.us](mailto:jcathcart@odf.state.or.us)



# Potential Ridgeline Acquisition

Feb 04, 2005



- UGB
- Hydic Soils
- Creeks/Ditches
- Evans Parcel
- WEW Owner
- The Nature Conservancy
- Eugene Parks
- Taxlots

1000 0 1000 Feet

Caution: this map is based on imprecise source data, subject to change, and for general reference only.

