

CAMAS PRAIRIE

RESTORATION PROJECT

Sweet Home Ranger District – Willamette National Forest



The goal of the Camas Prairie Restoration Project is to promote camas production through restoration of a degraded prairie wetland. Camas is a member of the lily family and was an important food source for Native Americans. The project site contains several acres of camas-dominated prairie and a number of Willamette Valley species, including meadow checkermallow. Elements of the project include camas seed collection and propagation, removal of invading Oregon ash trees and non-native blackberries, prescribed burning, dispersed recreation site management, and planting camas seed and bulbs.



Prescribed burning of the prairie is being done because it has been shown to benefit native plants.

The project site is located on the Sweet Home Ranger District in the Central Cascades Adaptive Management Area. The project involves many partners including the BLM Eugene District, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, private contractors, Oregon State University and Lane Community College.

Restoration activities at the Camas Prairie have been ongoing for eight years and additional work remains to be done. In 1996, Mike Southard, the BLM Eugene District archeologist, contracted with Oregon Woods to grow camas bulbs from seed gathered at the site. The following year the Siletz Tribe provided the crew to remove the invading Oregon ash trees and blackberries, and to assist in gathering additional camas seed. Vegetation plots were installed to determine the density of camas plants prior to treatment and cultural resource surveys were initiated. Crews from the Grand Ronde and Siletz Tribes assisted the Sweet Home and Detroit Ranger Districts in prescribed burning in the fall of 1998 and 2000. During FY 2000, project activities were funded through the National Fire Plan Hazardous Reduction Program. The next burn is scheduled for the fall of 2002.

