Plant Communities of the Willamette Valley

Open Woodlands (Oak Savanna) Community

- Prairie vegetation
 (grasses and flowers),
 with scattered Garry
 Oak trees
- Formerly common in Willamette Valley, now only remnants survive
- Bald Hill in early 1900's



Open Woodlands (Oak Savanna) Community - continued

Controlled fire to manage oak savannah landscape



Open Woodlands (Oak Savanna) Community - continued

Finley Wildlife Refuge



Douglas Fir Forest Community



- Douglas Fir trees dominate
- What we think of as typical "forest"
- Much more common in Willamette Valley now due to lack of burning

Douglas Fir Forest Community

Understory plants include ferns, shrubs like salal and osoberry, and large shrubs/small trees like vine maple



Douglas Fir Forest Community

Common throughout the Pacific Northwest (Drift Creek wilderness, near Waldport)



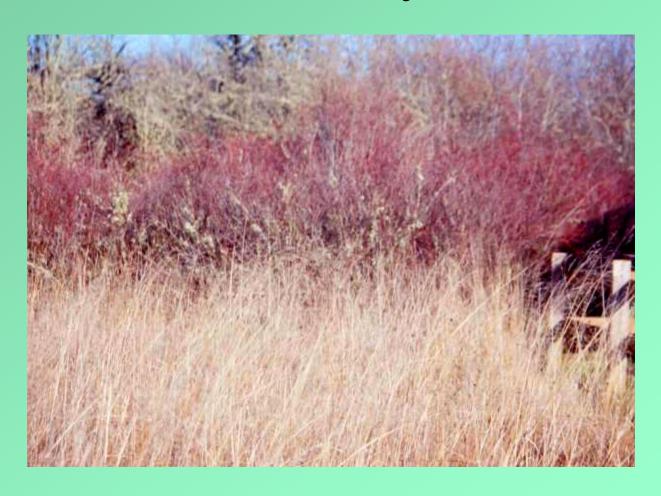
Prairie Community



- Pristine prairies are very rare now
- Include small plants such as blue ryegrass and many other flowers and grasses
- Most prairies are now dominated by nonnative plants

Prairie Community

Tufted Hairgrass stand at the entrance to Jackson-Frasier wetland in Corvallis

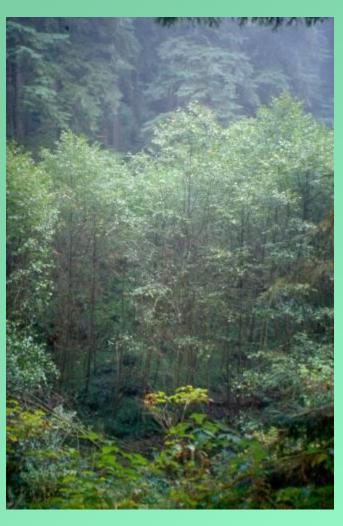


Prairie Community

Grasses and wildflowers at Finley Wildlife Refuge, south of Corvallis



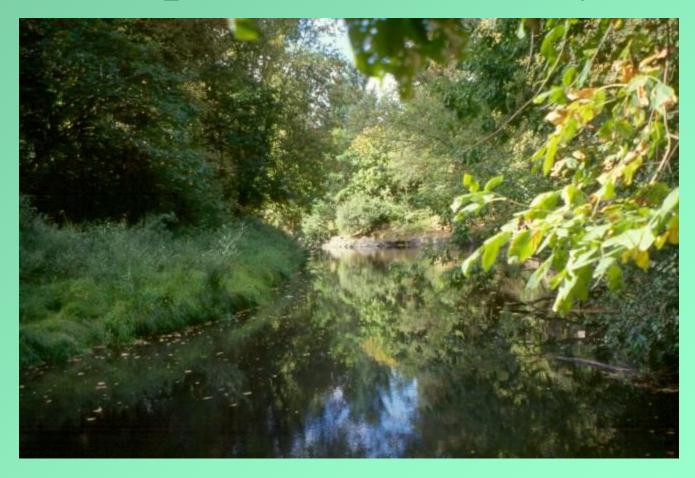
Wetland / Riparian Community



- Near streams, lakes and wetlands
- Lots of alder, ash, pacific dogwood, horsetail, cow parsnip, and other water-loving plants

Wetland / Riparian Community

Mary's River near Avery Park in Corvallis



Wetland / Riparian Community

Ash swale in the winter (Ankeny Wildlife Refuge)

