

Working Forest Easements

Scott Ferguson
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Working Forest Models

- Enhance conservation through responsible forest management
- Working Forests: A vital part of the landscape and a vital part of biodiversity
- Working lands: Keep people on the land and lands producing for the local economy

On The Landscape

- 15 % of forestlands in Oregon are family owned
- Many interface between farms and upland industrial forests
- Some of the most intact, diverse private forests



Working Forests, or Over-Worked Forests?

- High production, industrial forests reduce diversity
- To sustain, enhance or restore forest ecosystems:
 - Management must have an ecological focus
 - A balanced set of management goals
 - Long-term ownership and stewardship ethic
 - Management plans with standards that exceed Forest Practice Regulations
 - Longer “rotations” and biological reserves

What tools do we have?

(economic incentives)

- “Green” Forest Certification (FSC)
- Better Markets for Green Certified Wood?
- Working Forest Conservation Easements (WFCE’s)
- Streamside Easements
- Carbon Markets
- Restoration Funding
- Monitoring



Current WFCE Projects

- 6 properties, 5,250 acres in NW Oregon
- Two easements closed in 2010
- All are managed forests
- All will permanently protect important habitat
- Benefits:
 - No subdivision
 - No forest conversion
 - Protects biodiversity and water quality

Why Now?



- Relatively new in our region
- Common in New England in the 70s & 80s
 - Few land use laws in Northeast
 - Oregon has land use zoning
- Larger properties not protected
 - Many larger ownerships can be subdivided
 - Forests can be converted to fields and vineyards

When WFCE's Work

- Ownership goals are compatible
- Record of stewardship
- Tangible benefits to owner
 - Benefits outweigh restrictions
 - Tax benefits if donated
 - Income from sale of easement
- Integrated management plan
 - that produces income and helps maintain restoration practices

The Trappist Abbey

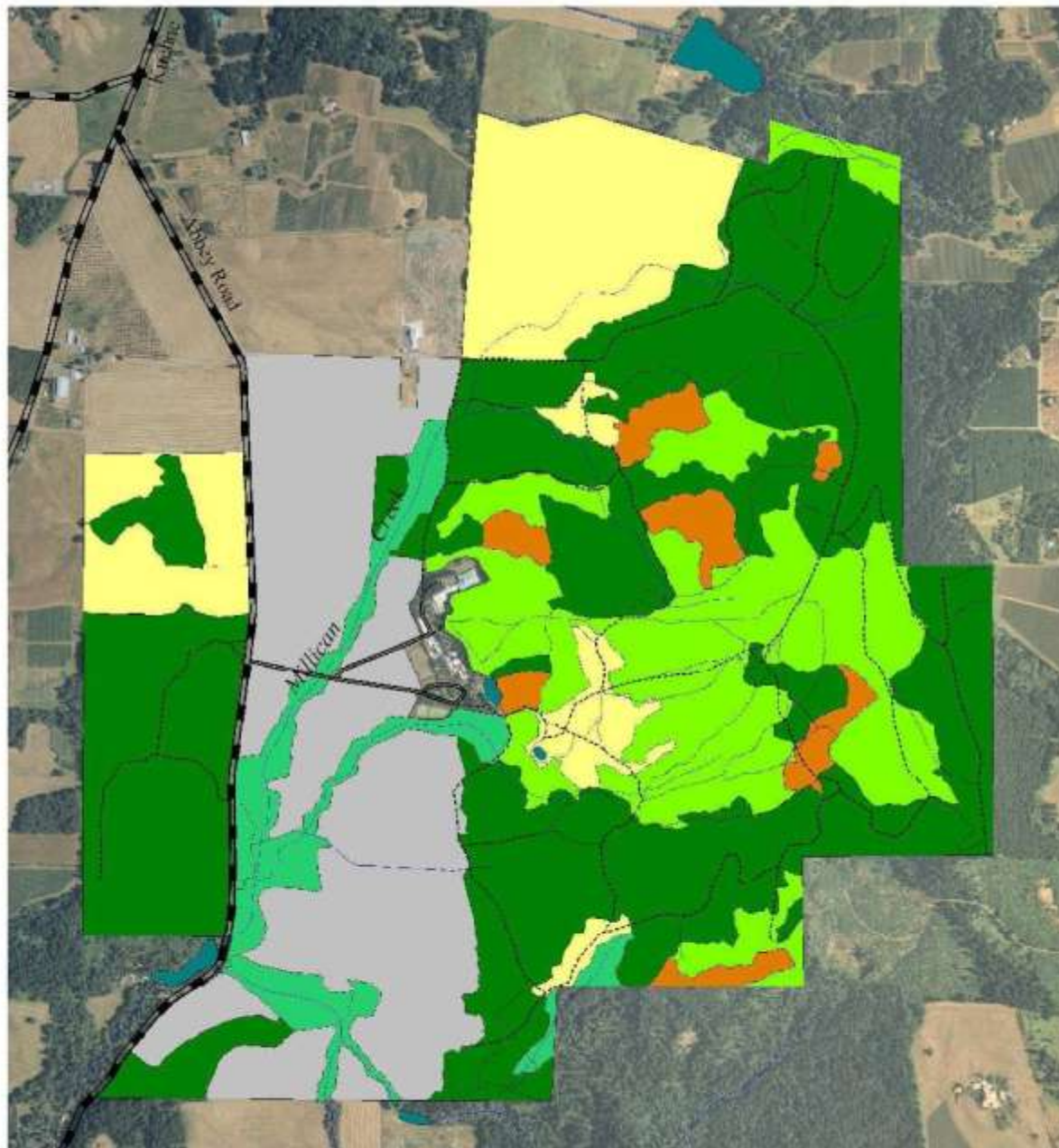


Abbey location in N. Willamette Valley



Trappist Abbey

Habitat types



ROADS(by Type)

- County Road
- Paved
- Trail
- Woodland

STREAMS

- Ponds

Habitat types(by Type)

- Agricultural field
- Conifer forest
- Mixed fir/oak
- Oak savanna
- Oak woodland
- Riparian forest

TRAPPISTABBEY_NAIP05.TIF



3000 0 US Feet

Scale = 1 : 1500.00 (in : US Feet)



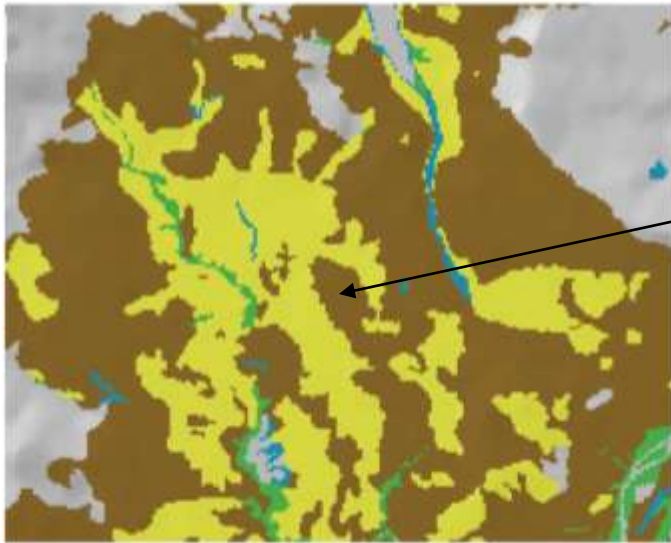
Oregon Conservation Strategy

Loss of key habitats in the Willamette Valley since 1850

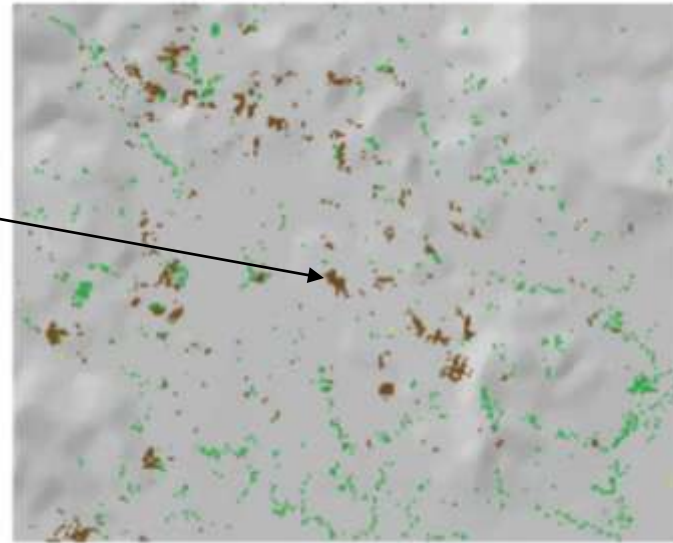
- Oak woodland reduced by more than 93%
- Oak savanna reduced by more than 99%

Loss of native habitats over time

1850



2004



Trappist
Abbey





Key species

- Acorn woodpecker
- Western gray squirrel
- Western bluebird
- White breasted nuthatch
- Family forest owner?



Western gray squirrel



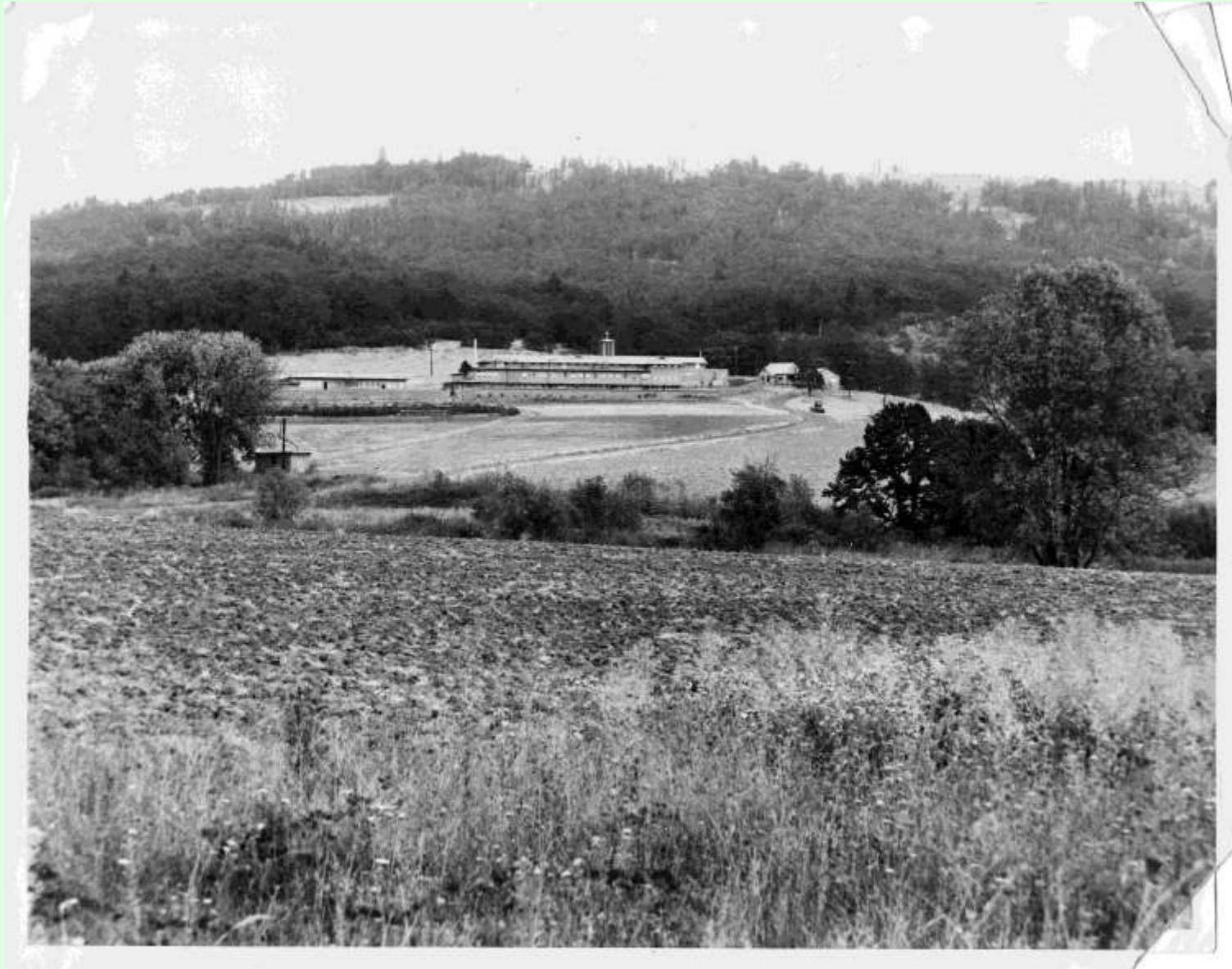
Western bluebird



Trappist Monks of Guadalupe

- Trappist Monastery near Lafayette
- Established 1954
- 29 monks
- Over 50 years of stewardship on 1,300 acres of forest and farmland

Cut – Over Foothill Site 1955



Similar View 2008



Sense of Place



Community Leaders in Family Forestry

- Yamhill County Small Woodlands
- Willamette Valley Pine Association
- Property open to Public
- Public Tours and Demonstrations

Why a Conservation Easement?

- Development Threats
- Rare Block of Intact Habitat
- Multiple Wildlife Benefits
- Good Condition of Existing Habitat
- Enhancement Opportunities

Management History: New Emphasis on Habitat



Forestry Crew



Thinning Oak Woodlands





Large Snag Creation



Sustainable Harvest Levels



Habitat Management in Douglas-fir

- Annual Commercial Harvest
- Increasing age and structural diversity through thinning
- Enhancing down wood and snags
- Limiting soil disturbance
- Reducing and monitoring invasive vegetation

Abbey Forest Conservation Easement Process:

- Funding source identified (purchaser)
- Appraisal
- Drafting the easement contract
- Community approval of restrictions
- Environmental hazards survey
- Baseline conditions document
- 10-year management plan
- Contract signing and Closing

Easement Results

1. Large cash payment for value of property rights given up
2. Stewardship fund for restoration activities
3. Eliminates development pressures
4. Long-term assurance of “ability to manage”



Easement Funding Sources

- BPA dam mitigation funds
- HFRP program
- Forest Legacy
- OWEB grants

Current Limitations:

- Competition for funds
- Funder's lack of understanding & experience with WFCEs
- Qualified easement holders



Long-term Stewardship



Working Forests Can Sustain!

