

# Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program

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**ODFW Habitat Division Administrator**

January 24, 2023

*Joint presentation to the House  
Committee on Agriculture, Land Use,  
Natural Resources, and Water*

***Jason Faucera, Clackamas SWCD***

***Susan Watkins, Landowner***





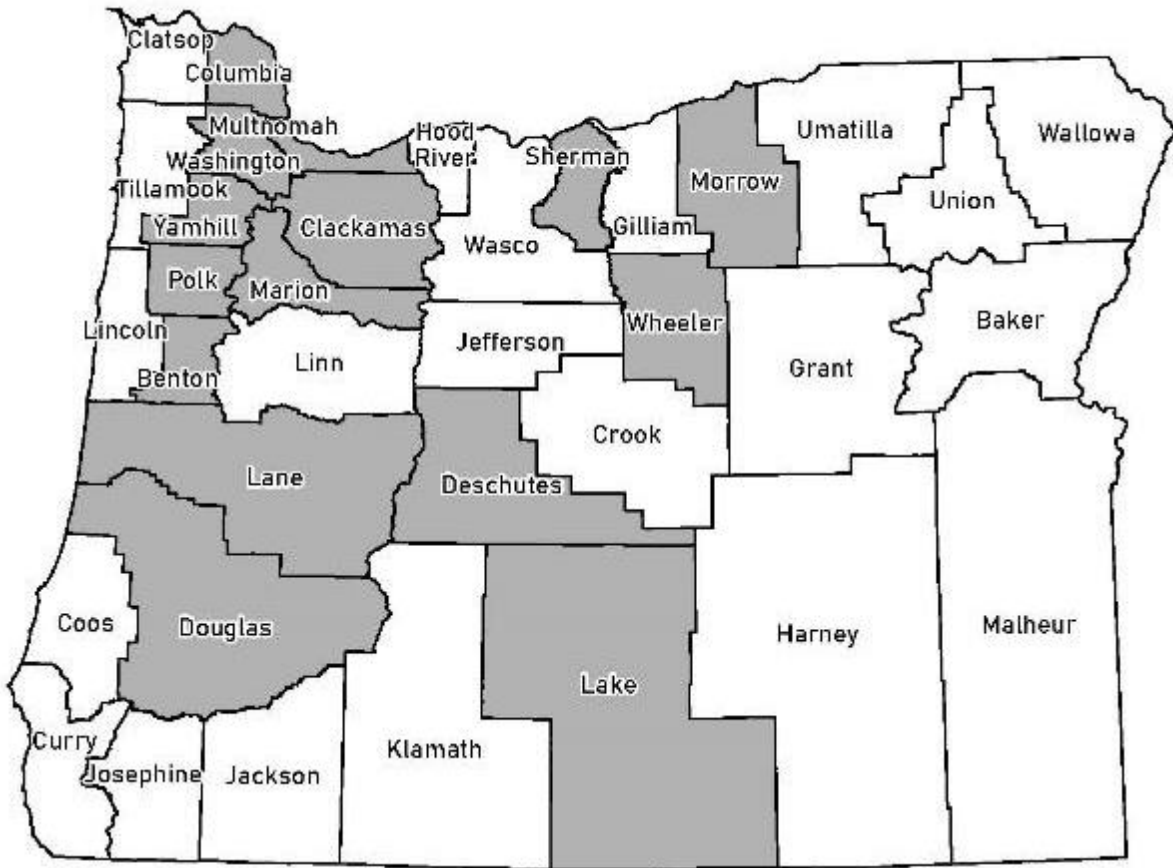
# Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program (WHCMP)

- Created in 1993, amended in 2003
- Offers a property tax incentive to private landowners who want to voluntarily conserve wildlife habitat
- Addresses Oregon Conservation Strategy goals



Photo: Jason Faucera





**Non-participating Counties:**

Baker, Clatsop, Coos, Crook, Curry, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco

**Participating Counties**

Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Deschutes, Douglas, Lake, Lane, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Sherman, Washington, Wheeler, Yamhill



# WHCMP Legislative Concept

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- Concept developed with SWCDs and other stakeholders
- Changes to make the WHCMP a more sustainable and effective conservation tool
- Less prescriptive monitoring and compliance burden on agency
- Greater flexibility to focus enrollment on conservation priorities



Photo: Hilary Doulos



A close-up photograph of a red-capped woodpecker perched on a tree branch. The bird has a bright red cap, a white forehead, and a black face with a white patch around its eye. Its body is black with white streaks on the chest and belly. It has a long, sharp black beak and is looking to the right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

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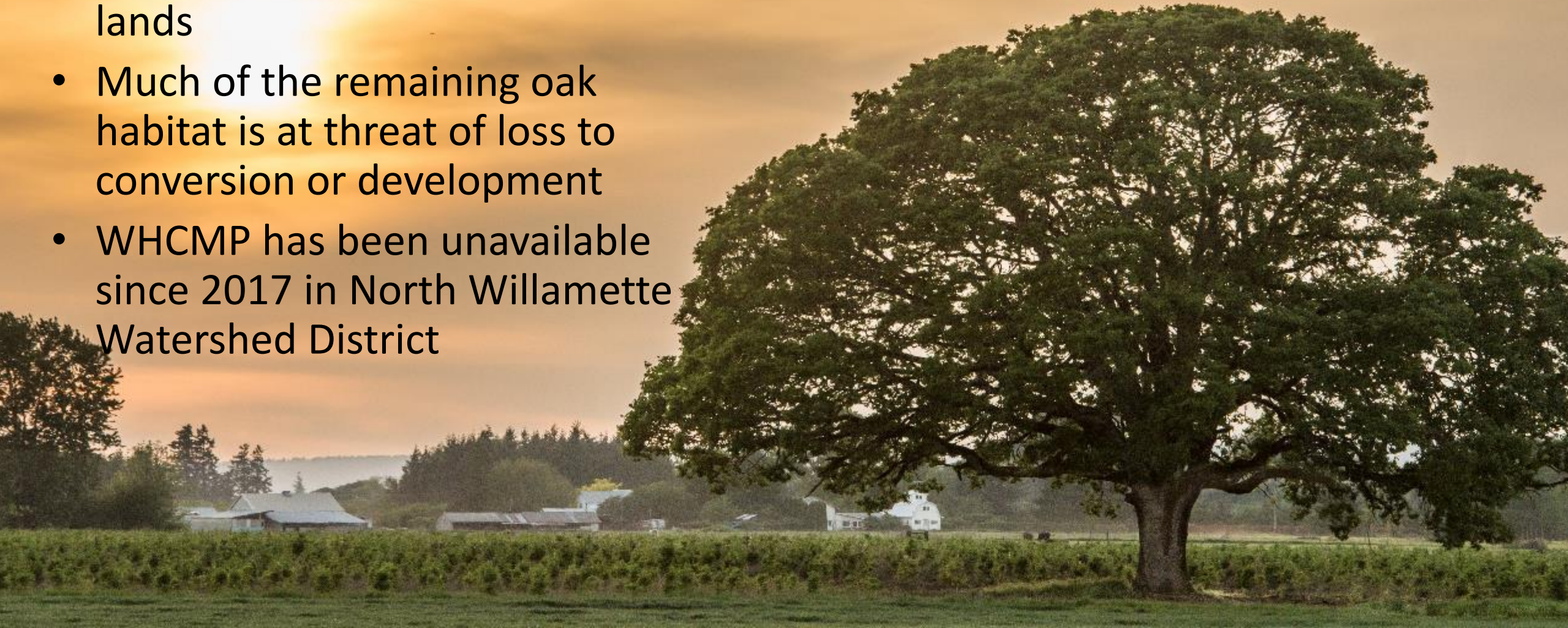
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Jason Faucera  
Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District



# WHCMP is important to preserving and restoring Oregon Conservation Strategy Habitats

- Significant portions of remaining critical habitats reside on private lands
- Much of the remaining oak habitat is at threat of loss to conversion or development
- WHCMP has been unavailable since 2017 in North Willamette Watershed District





# Public benefit at the expense of private landowners

## Managing for habitat...

- can be expensive
- generally, does not generate significant income or increase property value
- puts landowners at risk of losing agriculture or forestry deferrals and being assessed back taxes





# WHCMP can solve the deferral loss and offset the cost of maintenance

- WHCMP can help to offset the public/private benefit disparity
- Counties have shown they see value in WHCMP by opting in
- It provides landowners the flexibility to manage their land for critical habitats







# Streamlining WHCMP resolves program challenges

- Discretionary monitoring and landowner attestation will free up time for new enrollments
- Prioritizing projects based on Oregon Conservation Strategy habitats would increase impact for the capacity expended
- SWCDs and others can provide the technical advice needed to help enrollees be successful





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Susan Watkins & Arnie Hollander  
Landowner















