



Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

August 2011

Sycan Marsh, Oregon The Brattain Burn, a Year Later

In an unprecedented collaborative effort, the Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, and The Nature Conservancy jointly implemented the Brattain controlled burn in October 2010, applying fire to over 1,500 acres of Conservancy-managed lands; 2,300 acres of adjacent Forest Service lands will be treated in 2011. The landscape-scale project was designed to help restore naturally functioning ecosystems, increase habitat for fish and wildlife and reduce wildfire risk to resources and communities. Partners spent almost ten years working together to develop the landscape objectives and management principles that they all support, resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Conservancy and the USFS, the first in the Pacific Northwest.

Participants

Oregon Department of Forestry
The Nature Conservancy – Oregon
USDA Forest Service



The fire treatments at Sycan Marsh resulted in an immediate increase in groundwater elevation of 0.10 cm two days after the burn and 0.13 cm eight days after the burn. Surface and groundwater elevations at Sycan Marsh in 2011 were the highest ever measured. The increase in water has provided more habitat for ducks and other marsh nesting birds, like the white-faced ibis (left).

For more information, contact:

Craig Bienz

cbienz@tnc.org



Fire treatments were effective in meeting fuels reduction goals, as is documented in monitoring photos taken before the burn (far left) and in August 2011 (left).

Results of this burn will assist managers with developing scientifically sound and legally defensible prescribed fire projects that will reduce fuels and concurrently enhance watershed function, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Photos: TNC / Craig Bienz

The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information about the FLN, contact Lynn Decker at ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524. An equal opportunity provider.

