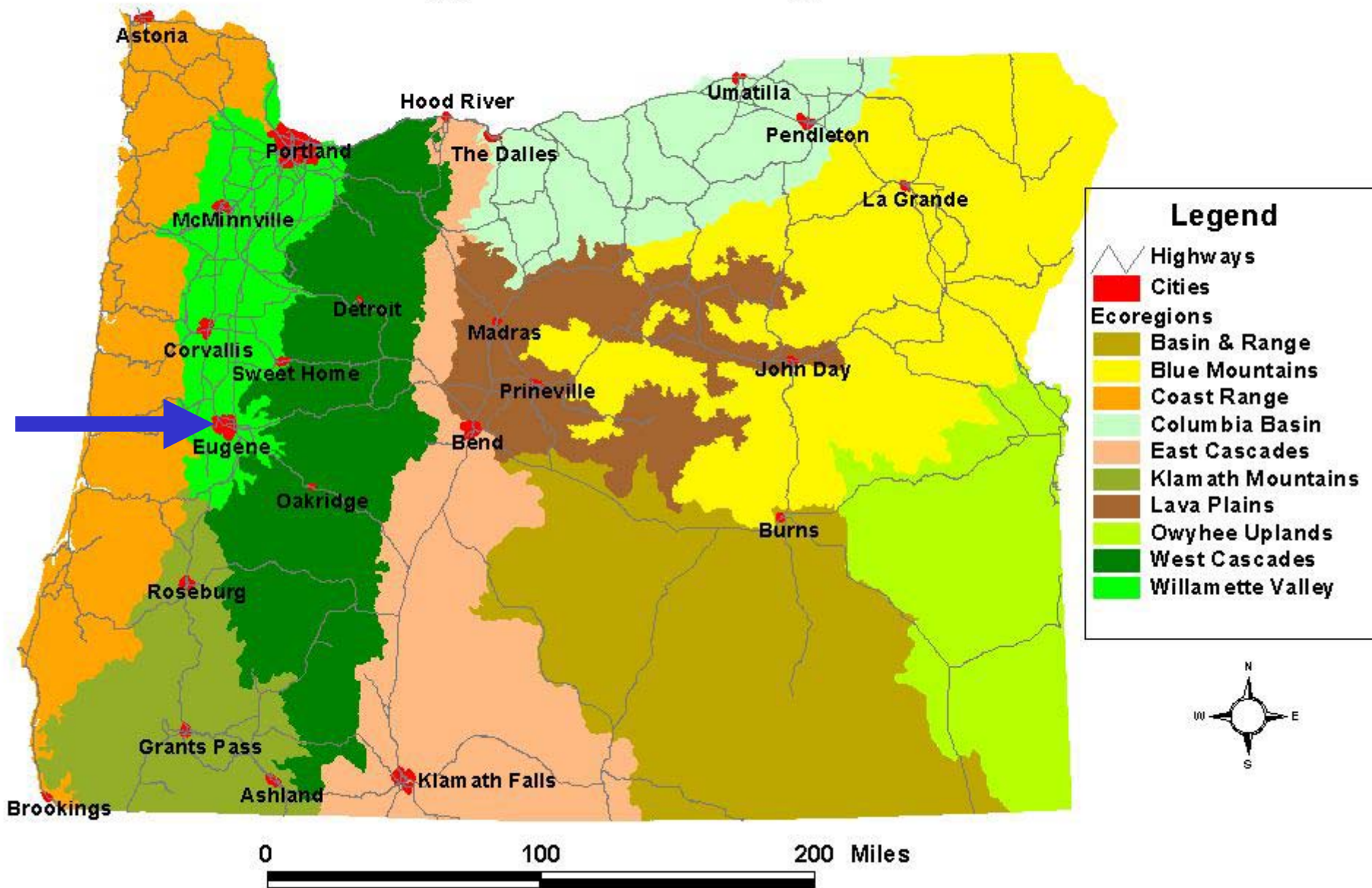


**The West Eugene Wetlands Partnership:
Criteria used to analyze priorities for protection,
acquisition, and mitigation**



**Eric Wold
City of Eugene, Oregon**

Ecoregions of Oregon









Timeline of Major Steps

1. Planning

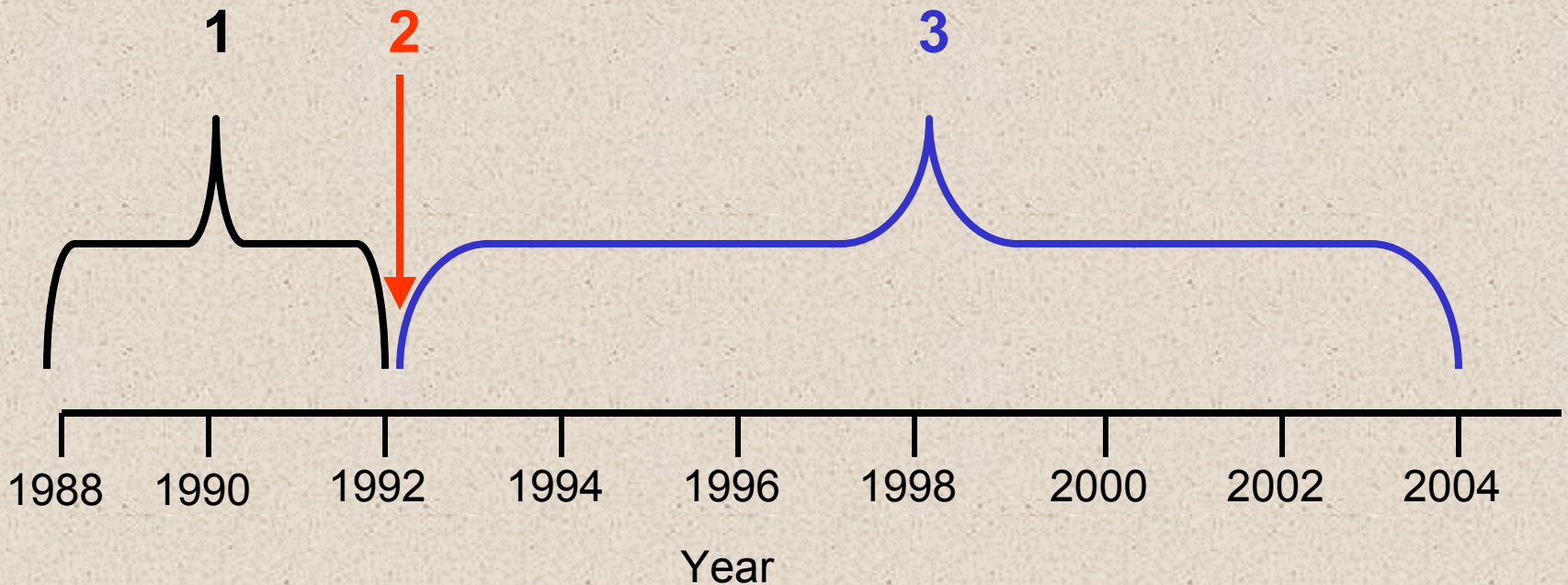
- Criteria
- Inventory
- Public process

2. Adoption

- City
- County
- State
- Federal

3. Implementation

- Acquisition
- Land Management (mitigation)
- Education
- Recreation Facilities



Priorities: Key Questions

A. Where would wetland management (including mitigation) most likely succeed in perpetuity?

1. Where there were historically wetlands
2. Where there are currently (jurisdictional) wetlands
3. Where existing habitat is high quality
4. Where there is hydrologic connectivity to major streams, within 100-year floodplain

Priorities: Key Questions

B. What other criteria should be considered?

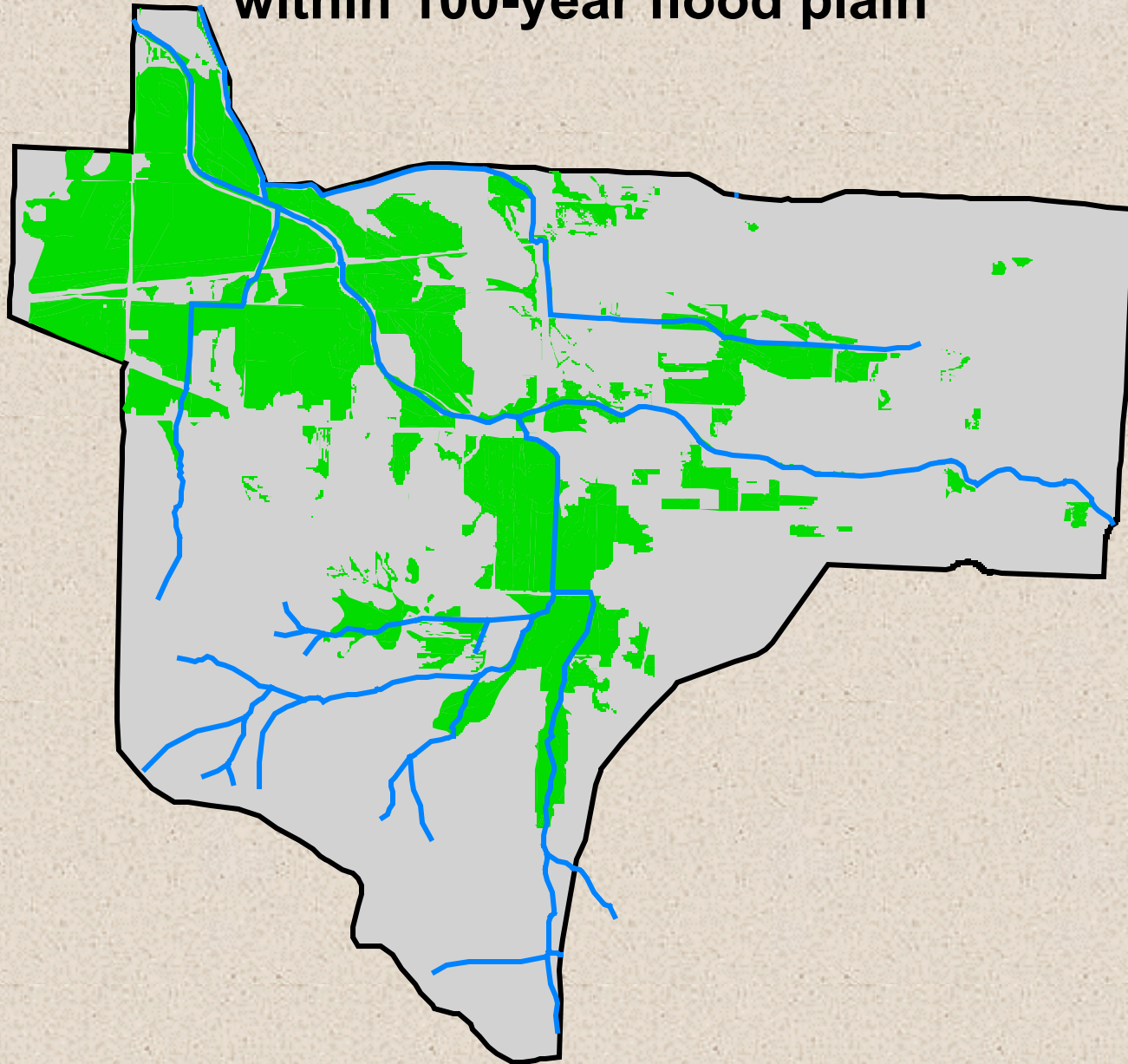
5. Rare plants
6. Rare animals
7. Existing zoning for Natural Resources
8. Habitat connectivity
9. Wet prairie habitat type

2-3. Wetland inventory and habitat quality

- on-site field work to identify wetlands
- air photo interpretation
- assessment of quality



4. Hydrologic connectivity to major streams, within 100-year flood plain





WETLANDS AND WATER QUALITY

Wetlands are important ecosystems that provide many benefits to society. They help to filter pollutants from water, reduce flooding, and provide habitat for many species of plants and animals. Wetlands also play a role in carbon sequestration, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



The diagram illustrates how a wetland acts as a natural filter. Water enters from the left, flows through a series of shallow channels and vegetation, and then exits on the right. This process traps and breaks down pollutants, improving the water quality.

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5. Rare Plants (three federally listed)

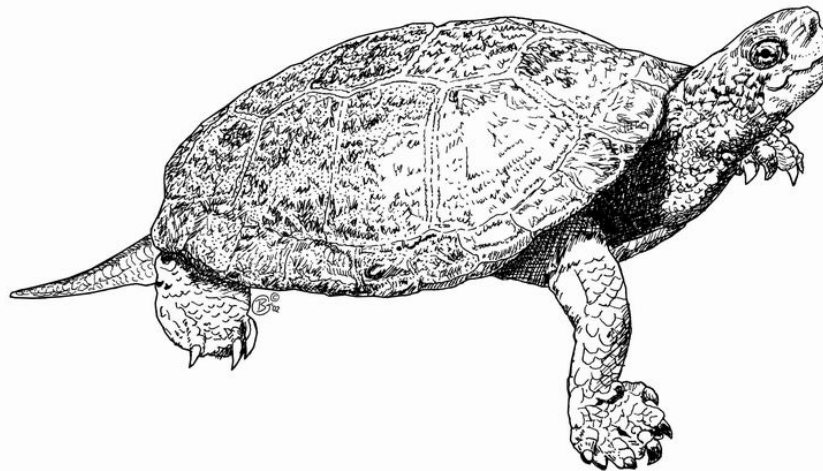


Erigeron decumbens



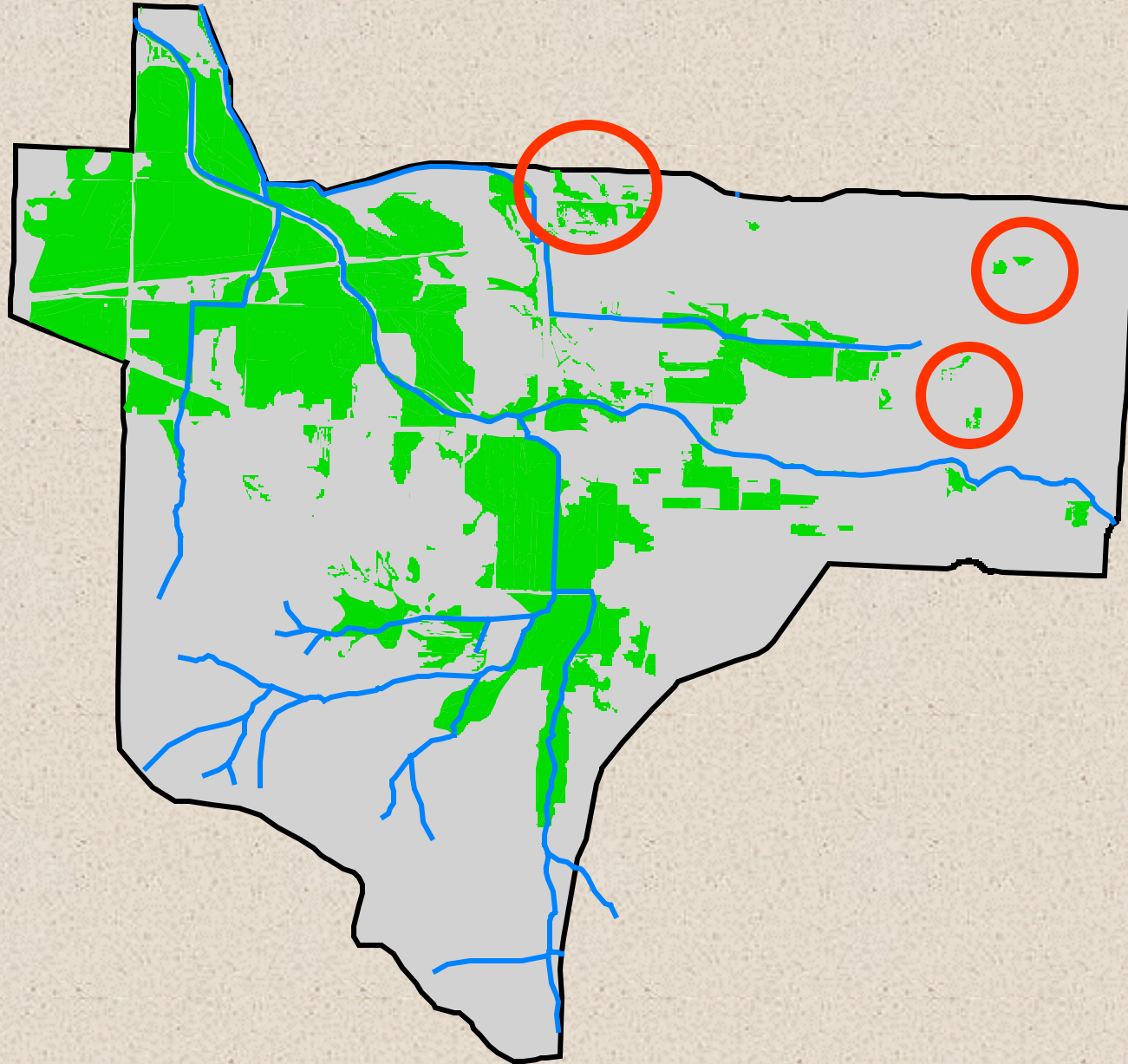
Lomatium bradshawii

6. Rare Animals (one federally listed)

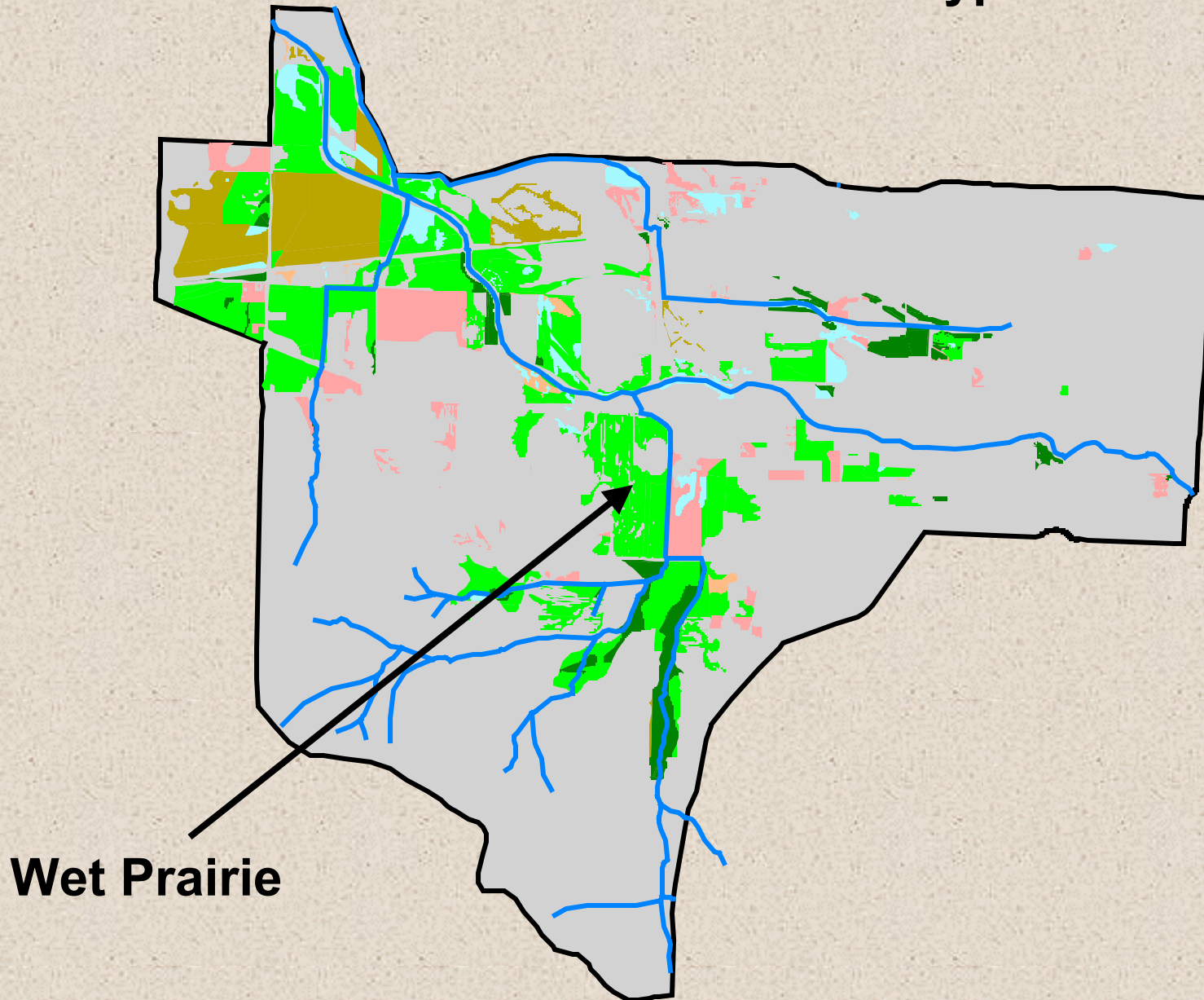


7. Existing Zoning for NR

8. Habitat Connectivity



9. Wet Prairie Habitat Type



How were criteria developed?

1. Committee of wetland scientists and other experts
2. Community input/Citizen involvement (1989 - 1992)
 - 7 public workshops
 - Opinion surveys, questionnaires
 - Many field trips
 - Speaker's bureau
 - Direct contacts
 - Public hearings

During the 4-year planning process . . .

- 25% of budget spent on scientific input
- 75% of the budget spent on the planning and public involvement process

How were criteria employed as a decision-support tool?

A. Land-use designations developed

1. **Protect** - Can not be developed, has set-backs
2. **Restore** - Can not be developed, no set-backs
3. **Develop** - Can develop with state and federal permits

B. Wetland sites assigned to each designation

1. Scores developed for each site
2. Based on how the meet each criterion

C. Public Adoption Process

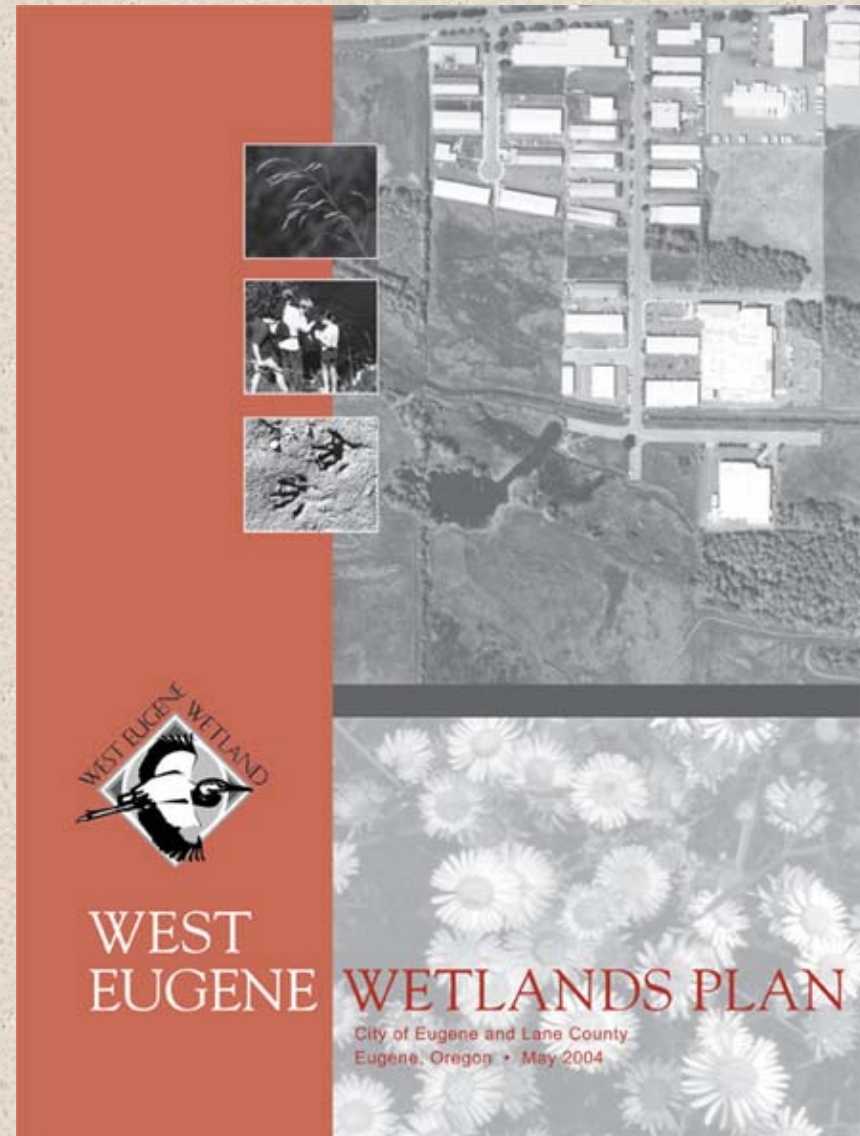
West Eugene Wetlands Plan

A. What is it?

- Land-use plan
- Adopted by City of Eugene
- Adopted by Lane County
- Acknowledged by State and Federal regulatory agencies

B. Broad Objectives

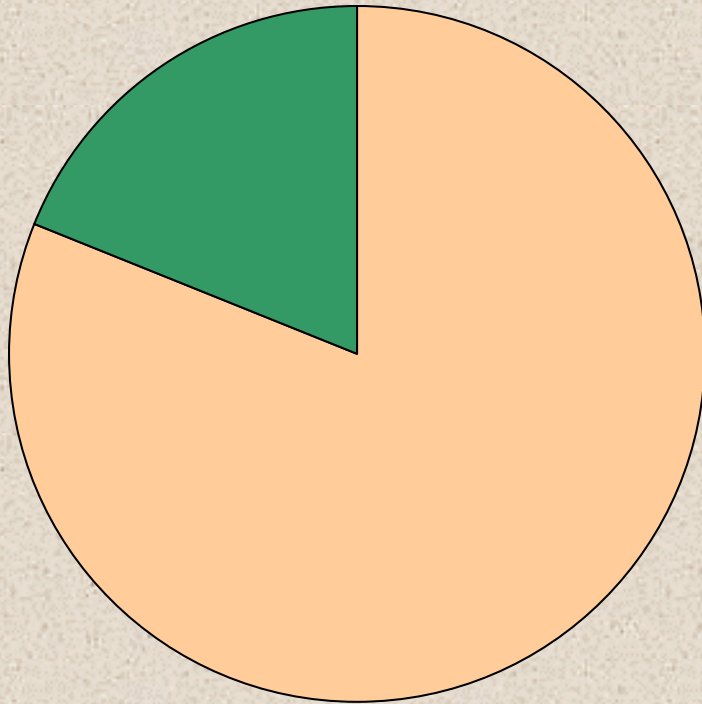
- To find a **balance** between wetlands protection and sound urban development.
- To meet state and federal laws and regulations.



Balance?

All Lands within planning area (7,907 acres)

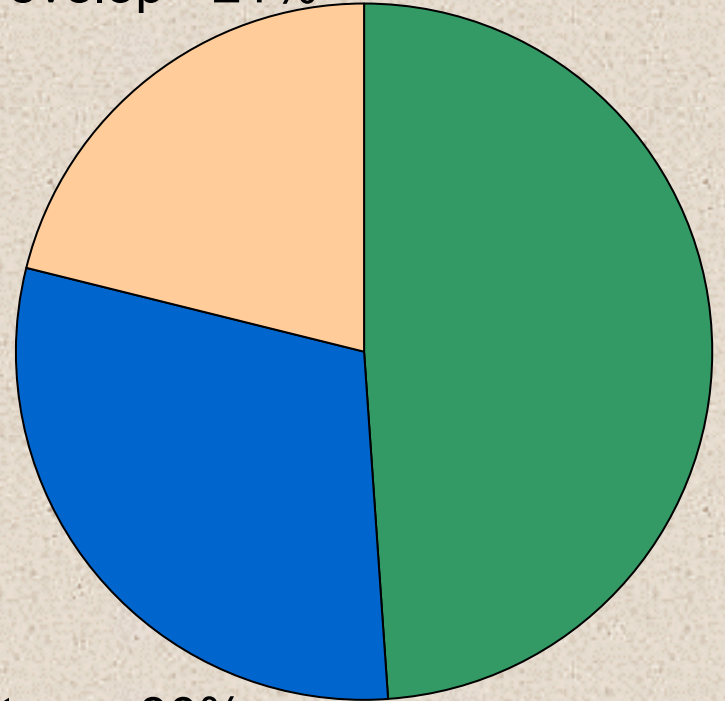
Wetlands - 19%



Non-Wetlands - 81%

Wetlands within planning area (1,491 acres)

Develop - 21%



Restore - 30%


Protect - 49%

West Eugene Wetlands Partnership



- City of Eugene
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Oregon Youth Conservation Corps
- McKenzie River Trust
- WREN

West Eugene Wetlands Partnership



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graph TD; A[West Eugene Wetlands Partnership] --- B[Land Acquisition]; A --- C[Land Management]; A --- D[Recreation Facilities]; A --- E[Environmental Education];
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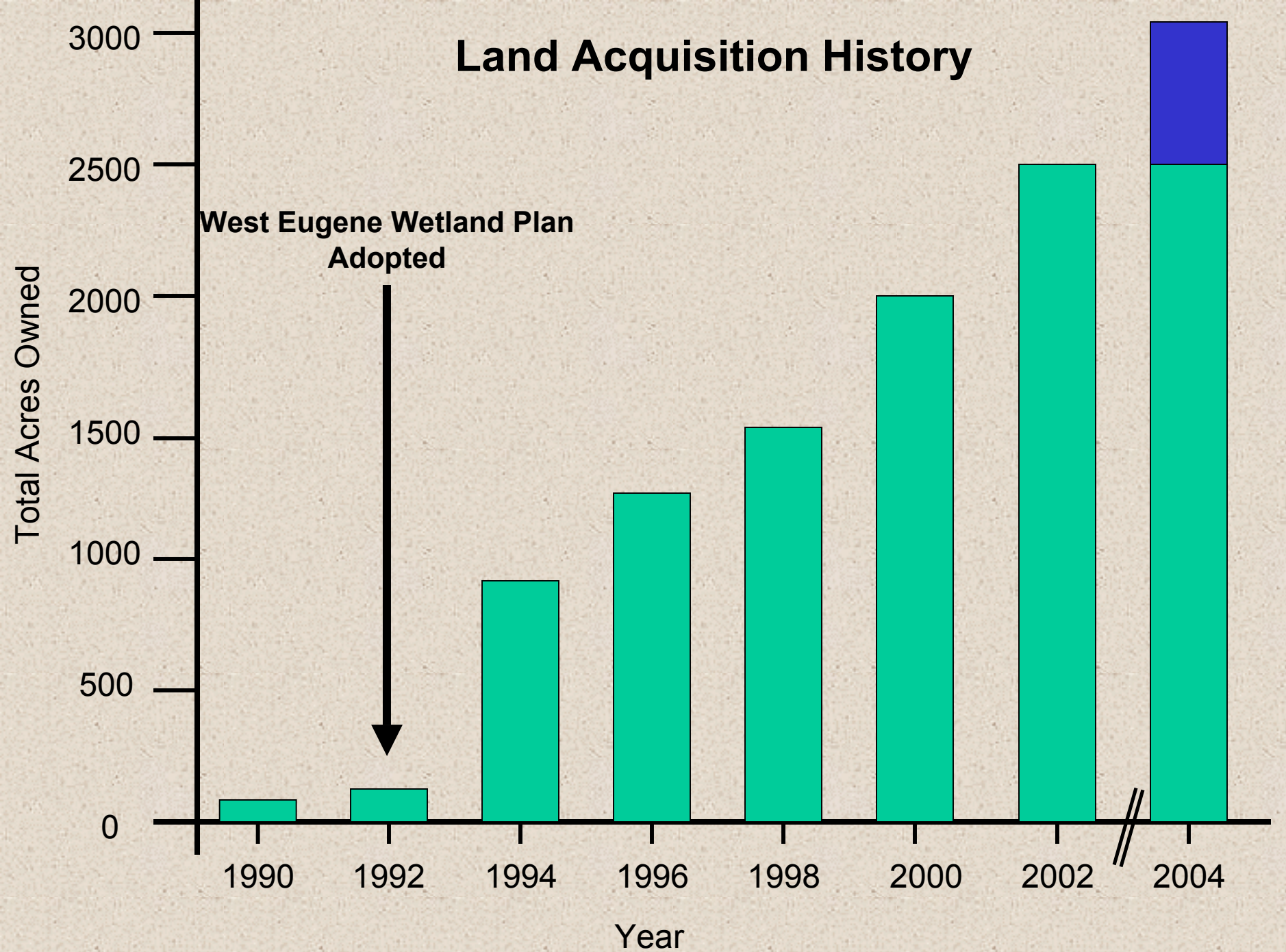
**Land
Acquisition**

**Land
Management**

**Recreation
Facilities**

**Environmental
Education**

Land Acquisition History



Funding Sources for Acquisition

(~ \$20 million since 1992)

Local

- City of Eugene park bonds
- City of Eugene stormwater funds

State

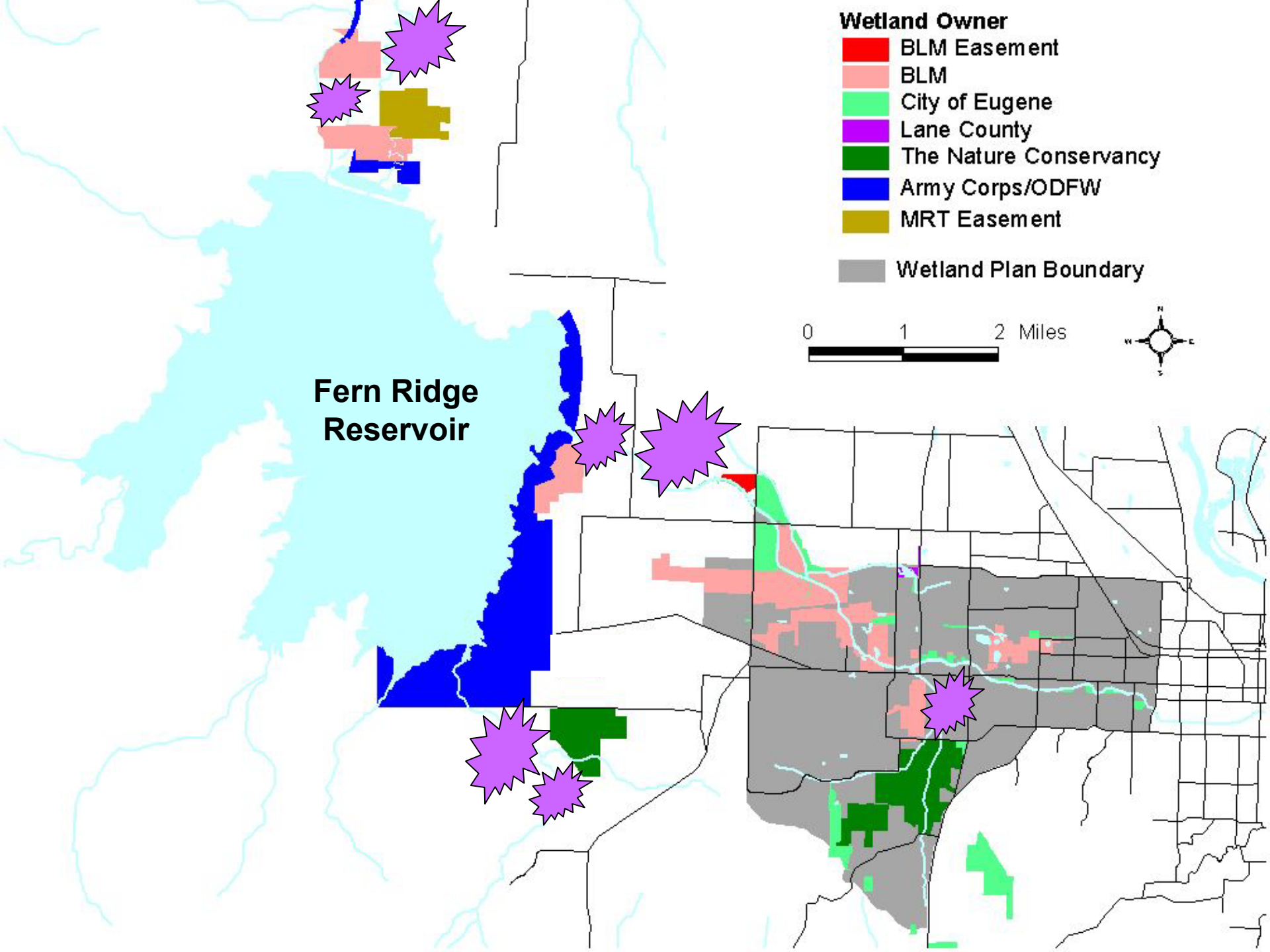
- OWEB grants

Federal

- Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF)
- NAWCA grant funds
- Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Private

- TNC funds
- Donations



Land Management






A. Mitigation Bank





B. Non-Bank

- TNC lands
- 1135 project lands
- Other grants (CCI)
- Research projects
- Future bank lands
- Uplands



-  Nectar plots
-  Emergent/Vernal Pool hand seeding
-  Plugs or Bulbs

Habitat Type/Seeding Zone

-  Emergent
-  Herptile mound
-  Upland Prairie
-  Wet Prairie

Recreation



Environmental Education



1. Year-round programs
2. Adults and children
3. Target student population is 3rd - 5th grade
4. Field-based
5. 1500 people served per year



OUR NATURAL WATER SYSTEM IT IS NOT SO CUT AND DRY ANYMORE

Water drops falling from the sky trickle into small ponds. These ponds combine to join together and eventually cover large areas of land. Earlier generations learned methods to help people control water between, between, and farms. The same ideas that farming is important for the benefit of our lands.



The diagram illustrates the natural water cycle. It shows a mountain on the left with a stream flowing down to a river. The river then flows into a field on the right. The field is divided into sections, with arrows indicating the flow of water from the river to the field. The diagram is labeled with 'Mountain', 'River', and 'Field'.

THE WYLLASH FARM VALLEY & THE WYLLASH RIVER

Understanding the natural water cycle is the first step in understanding the water cycle. The water cycle is a continuous process that moves water around the globe. It is a cycle that is constantly in motion. The water cycle is a cycle that is constantly in motion. The water cycle is a cycle that is constantly in motion.



The diagram illustrates the water cycle. It shows a sun on the left, a cloud in the middle, and a river on the right. Arrows indicate the flow of water from the sun to the cloud, from the cloud to the river, and from the river back to the sun. The diagram is labeled with 'Sun', 'Cloud', and 'River'.

Partnership Accomplishments

A. Policy

- West Eugene Wetlands Plan adopted
- MOU's among partners

B. Ecological

- 3000 acres of land and ↑
- Landscape connectivity
- Protection of rare species and habitats

C. Mitigation Bank

- Meeting developers needs
- Over 78 credits sold between 1994 - 2003
- Financially stable
- Long-term management commitment

Partnership Accomplishments

D. Educational

- Curriculum for 3rd - 5th grade
- Laboratory for learning
- Year-round activities for children and adults
- New \$12 million facility in fund-raising stage

E. Community

- Community is involved and vested
- Recreation facilities well used
- Large volunteer program (Stream Team and others)

F. Partnership

- 12 years of successful partnering
- New partners continue to want to join

Partnership Accomplishments

G. Research

- prescribed fire and plant community structure
- Fender's blue butterfly
- rare plant experiments and monitoring
- soil stratigraphy
- experiments on upland prairie restoration techniques
- evaluation of wet prairie site preparation techniques on soils, plant productivity, and plant community structure

Eric Wold
City of Eugene
(541) 682-4888

eric.n.wold@ci.eugene.or.us
www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/natural

