Plants for People: bringing traditional ecological knowledge to restoration

Peter Moore (IAE) & Jeremy Ojua (CTGR)
Traditionally, plants were gathered for food, basketry, tools and medicine.
Development has reduced biodiversity

Cities

Roads

Agriculture

Habitat destruction
Natural areas are fragmented & isolated
Issues today

• Loss of natural habitats

• Limited availability of cultural plants for restoration

• Lack of sites that host culturally significant plant species

• Few sites support gathering by tribes
Objectives of Plants for People project

• Create a tribal plant materials program for Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

• Incorporate tribal knowledge and cultural plant species at restoration sites

• Enhance future gathering and cultural opportunities for local tribes
Project timeline

- Phase I (2014-16)
- Phase II (2017-19)
- Both funded by OWEB grants
## Choosing cultural species for production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tall camas</td>
<td>Camassia leichtlinii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gairdner’s yampah</td>
<td>Perideridia gairdneri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coast tarweed</td>
<td>Madia sativa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow parsnip</td>
<td>Heracleum lanatum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barestem biscuitroot</td>
<td>Lomatium nudicaule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrowleaf onion</td>
<td>Allium amplectens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toughleaf iris</td>
<td>Iris tenax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific willow</td>
<td>Salix lucida lasiandra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redosier dogwood</td>
<td>Cornus sericea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Collecting wild seed & harvesting bulbs
Seed production

Coast tarweed

Cow parsnip

Barestem biscuitroot
Creating infrastructure: Building raised beds at Grand Ronde
Spring growth
Cutting beds
Tribal Native Plant Materials
Program Development Plan for the
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

10/20/2016

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Institute for Applied Ecology

Funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Grant #214-3054-10944
Blessing and planting the camas beds at Grand Ronde
Sharing knowledge: native plant propagation workshops at Grande Ronde

Photos: Michelle Alaimo, CTGR
Children harvesting camas from raised beds
## Restoration Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Landowner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herbert Farm &amp; Natural Area</td>
<td>City of Corvallis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champoeg State Park</td>
<td>Oregon Parks &amp; Recreation Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rattlesnake Butte</td>
<td>Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Yamhill</td>
<td>CTGR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson</td>
<td>CTGR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sharing knowledge:
Tribal elder visits to restoration sites
Restoration

• Restoration treatments
• Plant materials
• Culturally important plant materials
• Phase II – focus on oak savanna habitats
Restoration: Herbert Farm & Natural Area
Planting trees at Herbert Farm
Champoeg State Park
Plans at Champoeg State Park in 2018-19

• Hold a cultural planting event
• Tribal volunteers
• Plan for future harvest
Restoration at 3 CTGR sites in 2018-19

- Rattlesnake Butte
- Thompson
- South Yamhill
- Focusing on Oak savanna habitats & complementing other efforts
Benefits to tribe and community

- Employment opportunities
- Cultural education
- Access to culturally significant plants
- Restoration at culturally important sites
- Future opportunities for harvest
Improving tribal connection to natural areas

Grand opening at Tyee Nature Reserve