

Oregon White Oak, *Quercus Garryana*, Prairie Plant Associations

Habitat loss is reported throughout the Oregon White Oak's range. Many oak prairies have declined to less than 15% of their former range. Because oak prairies were much more open than the surrounding coniferous forests, they were easier for European settlers to adapt to their uses. Playing a role in this loss were: suppressed fires, agriculture, heavy grazing, urban development and introduction of non-native species. Efforts are being made to study and preserve remaining prairies including in south Tacoma & Fort Lewis areas as well as the Willamette Valley in Oregon.

"The origins and maintenance of these prairie openings are ... due to two main factors: (1) the occurrence of droughty, gravelly soils derived from glacial outwash materials coupled with low summer precipitation and (2) frequent burning of the prairies by natural causes, Indians, and possibly early white settlers" -- from **Natural Vegetation of Oregon and Washington**, Jerry F. Franklin and C.T. Dyrness

Other trees found in association with Oregon White Oak:

- **Grand Fir**, *Abies grandis*
- **Vine Maple**, *Acer circinatum*
- **Big-leaf Maple**, *Acer macrophyllum*
- **Douglas Maple**, *Acer glabrum*
- **Pacific Madrone**, *Arbutus menziesii*
- **Incense Cedar**, *Calocedrus decurrens*
- Pacific Dogwood, *Cornus nutalli*
- **Oregon Ash**, *Fraxinus latifolia*
- **Pacific Crabapple**, *Malus fusca*
- **Shore Pine**, *Pinus contorta*
- **Ponderosa Pine**, *Pinus ponderosa*
- **Chokecherry**, *Prunus virginiana*
- **Douglas Fir**, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*---to be discouraged!
- **Cascara Buckthorn**, *Rhamnus purshiana*

Shrub associates:

- **Serviceberry**, *Amelanchier alnifolia*
- **Western Hazelnut**, *Corylus cornuta*
- **Douglas Hawthorn**, *Crataegus douglasii*
- **Ocean Spray**, *Holodiscus discolor*
- **Tall Oregon Grape**, *Mahonia aquifolium*
- **Indian Plum**, *Oemleria cerasiformis*
- **Nootka Rose**, *Rosa nutkana*
- **Baldhip Rose**, *Rosa gymnocarpa*
- **Thimbleberry**, *Rubus parviflorus*
- **Snowberry**, *Symphoricarpos albus*
- Pacific Poison Oak, *Toxicodendron diversiloba*

Ground cover & vine associates:

- **Kinnikinnick**, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
- **Hairy Honeysuckle**, *Lonicera hispidula*
- Trumpet Honeysuckle, *Lonicera ciliosa*
- **Dewberry**, *Rubus ursinus*

Herb associates:

- **Seathrift**, *Armeria maritima*
- Deltoid Balsamroot, *Balsamorhiza deltoidea*
- **Common & Great Camas**, *Camassia quamash* & *C. leichtlinii*
- Enchanter's Nightshade, *Circaea alpina*
- Miner's Lettuce, *Claytonia perfoliata*
- **Siberian Miner's Lettuce**, *Claytonia siberica*
- Yerba buena, *Clinopodium (Satureja) douglasii*
- Spotted Coralroot, *Corallorhiza maculata*
- **Henderson's Shooting Star**, *Dodecatheon hendersonii*
- **Wood Strawberry**, *Fragaria vesca*
- Bedstraw, *Galium aparine*
- Rattlesnake Plantain, *Goodyera oblongifolia*
- Purple Peavine, *Lathyrus nevadensis*

- Celeryleaf Licorice-root, *Ligusticum apiifolium*
- Small flower Nemophila, *Nemophila parviflora*
- Sweet Cicely, *Osmorhiza berteroi*
- Gardener's Yampah, *Perideridia gairdneri*
- Seablush, *Plectritis congesta*
- Pacific Sanicle, *Sanicula crassicaulis*
- Snow Queen, *Synthesis reneformis*
- Wholeleaf Saxifrage, *Saxifraga integrifolia*
- **Broadleaf Stonecrop**, *Sedum spathulifolium*
- **Blue-eyed Grass**, *Sisyrinchium idahoense*
- **Fringecup**, *Tellima grandiflora*
- American Vetch, *Vicia americana*
- **Early Blue Violet**, *Viola adunca*
- Canary Violet, *Viola praemorsa*
- Death Camas. *Zidadenus venenosus*

Fern Associates:

- Coastal Wood Fern, *Dryopteris arguta*
- **Sword Fern**, *Polystichum munitum*
- Bracken Fern, *Pteridium aquilinum*

Moss associates:

- Dicranum moss, *Dicranum scoparium*
- Hoary Fringe Moss, *Racomitrium canescens*
- **Big Shaggy Moss**, *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*

Grass/Sedge associates:

- Idaho Bentgrass, *Agrostis idahoensis*
- California Brome, *Bromus carinatus*
- Chinook Brome, *Bromus laevipes*
- Columbia Brome, *Bromus vulgaris*
- Long Stolon Sedge, *Carex inops*
- California Oatgrass, *Danthonia californica*
- **Blue Wild Rye**, *Elymus glaucus*

- California Fescue, *Festuca californica*
- **Idaho Fescue**, *Festuca idahoensis*
- **Red Fescue**, *Festuca rubra*
- Alaska Oniongrass, *Melica subulata*
- Tall Trisetum Grass, *Trisetum canescens*

Species threatened or of concern:

- Columbian Whitetop, *Aster Seriorcarpus rigidus* (*Aster curtus*)
- Longhair Sedge, *Carex comosa*
- Greenfruit Sedge, *Carex interrupta*
- Smallflower Wakerobin, *Trillium parviflorum*
- Torrey's pea, *Lathyrus torreyi*
- Golden Indian Paintbrush, *Castilleja levisecta*

The Oak Prairie habitat is also important for threatened and endangered animal species such as the Western gray squirrel, *Sciurus griseus*; the Western Pocket Gopher, *Thomomys mazama*, and several species of birds, reptiles, amphibians, and butterflies including the, Mardon Skipper, *Politer mardon*, and the Valley Silverspot, *Speyeria zerene bremneril*. --

Quercus garryana Communities in the Puget Trough, Washington, David R. Thysell and Andrew B. Carey

Indigenous peoples in some areas burned the prairies every year in late summer to prevent encroachment by conifers. Acorns could be eaten after being soaked or buried throughout the winter to leach out the tannins. Open prairies were also essential for Camas, the bulbs were the most traded food after Salmon!

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