

Marys Peak Scenic Botanical Special Interest Area proposal.

The meadow complex on Marys Peak has been reduced in size from about 300 acres in 1948 to about 200 acres currently caused by the invasion of trees into the meadow. The Forest Service has developed a proposal to maintain and restore the meadow complex at a level that we believe is attainable. Both the meadow complex and Noble fir stand at the top of the Peak are unique within the Coast Range. The Forest desires to protect and enhance both ecotypes.

The Marys Peak Stewardship Group is planning an outreach picnic at the parking lot on Marys Peak on August 20. The event will include: 1) a presentation on Stewardship and Wyden authority funded projects on private land that influence the National Forest (City of Corvallis culvert, fish ladder and large wood placement in Rock Creek and snag creation on two local landowners properties); 2) Wildflower nature walks; 3) Marys Peak SIA walks showing examples of the proposal; and 4) a bring-your-own picnic.

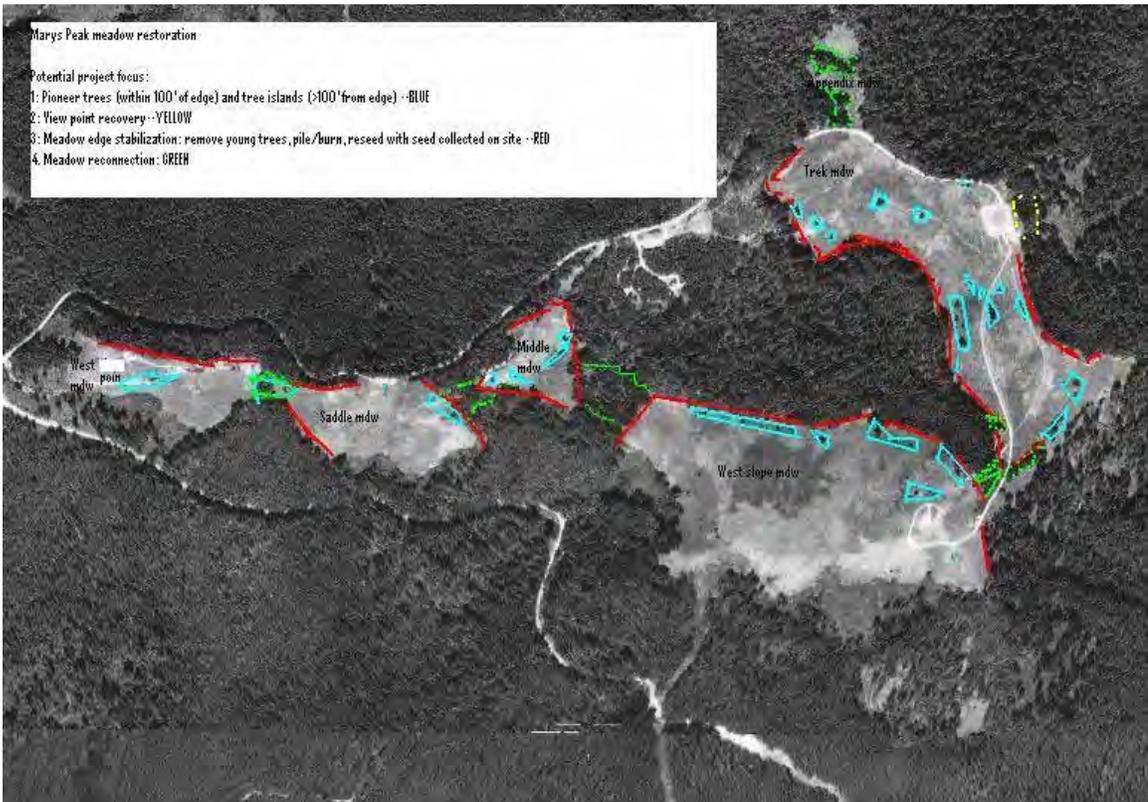
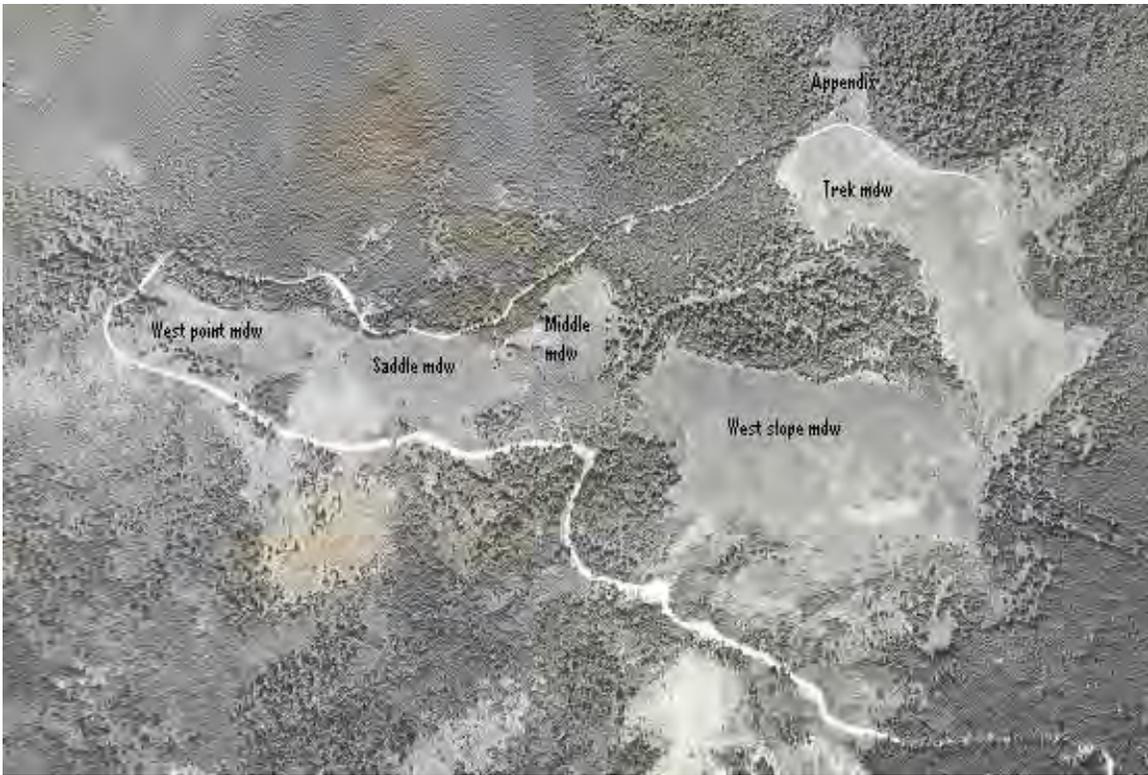
Attached is a aerial photo of the meadow complex from 1948 and a aerial photo from 2003 showing the proposed action. Also, attached are some photos of the some examples of the proposed action.

Objectives of the SIA proposals: Restore meadow connectivity and maintain as much meadow as possible. Restore views from view points. Enhance campground area.

Proposed Actions

1. Arrest current encroachment and remove pioneering trees, where there is potential for restoration of native meadow vegetation.
 - a) Removal of “pilot trees” (larger trees that have established with 100 feet of the forest edge) that can modify the microclimate, create favorable conditions for seedling establishment, and shed seed farther into the meadow.
 - b) Removal of seedling and saplings along meadow edge. Pile and burn slash created from this removal. Some slash on steeper slopes may be lopped and scattered into the forested area dependent on full loading.
 - c) Removal of “tree islands” (trees that have established within the interior of the meadows) that provide a seed source that increases the size of the trees islands.
2. Noble fir bough removal from trees targeted for removal.
3. Removal of roadside trees along 3010-112 road that accesses City of Corvallis land through the West Point meadow.
4. Remove all younger trees that sever meadows to reconnect meadows:
 - a) Trek and West slope meadow (BLM ownership).
 - b) Appendix Meadow (north and south).
 - c) Appendix meadow and Trek Meadow (Appendix south)
 - d) Middle and Saddle meadow (near developed site)
 - e) Saddle meadow and West point meadow (City of Corvallis)
 - f) West Slope meadow and Middle meadow.

8. Burn to remove duff layer following tree removal in “Appendix Meadow” to prepare site for native plant revegetation.
9. Minimize heavy equipment impacts in the meadow by operating over the snow.
10. Larger trees and slash from trees from pilot, trees islands and reconnecting meadows would be moved to a disposal site, to be determined. Once at the disposal site, disposal may include chipping for use at as biomass or other uses, chipped and retained at the disposal site, allowed to decompose over time, or burned.
11. Stumps would be flush cut.
12. Revegetate with native vegetation.
13. Open view site at large parking lot by removing approximately an acres of selected trees and pruning.
14. Open viewpoint at West point by removing approximately an acre of selected trees.
15. Open view site at Connors Camp through thinning
16. Thin trees at Marys Peak campground to increase growth on remaining trees and reduce fire hazard. Remove slash to disposal site.
17. Wash all equipment prior to entering the project area to prevent introduction of invasive species.
18. Treatment of invasive weeds that threaten the meadows. This is included in Invasive Weed EA. Include in Cumulative Effects as a foreseeable future action.
19. Pre-survey and monitor noxious weeds



Invading Noble fir



Invading Noble fir removed and revegetated with native grasses.



Tree islands



Marys Peak Campground

