The Changing Willamette Valley: From the Glacial Maximum to 2020

Field excursion at the Northwest Science Annual Meeting

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Friday March 27.

Leaders: Daniel Gavin, University of Oregon
          Megan Walsh, Central Washington University

Oak woodlands dominated the Willamette Valley for much of the Holocene, but are currently a very endangered habitat. Current restoration efforts to increase oak woodland are exemplified by the efforts of The Nature Conservancy and Lane County Parks.

We will visit two natural areas and a research site on this tour from Eugene into the eastern edge of the Coast Range. Attendees will receive printed guides to aid discussion at each site.

Travel will be by car-pool arranged on the morning of the trip. Those registered for the trip will be contacted to arrange meeting time and place.

Handouts will be provided showing key science findings at these sites.

Stop 1: Nature Conservancy Willow Creek Site, Rathbone Road.
         We will be met by Amanda Rau, Oregon/Washington Fire Manager for the Nature Conservancy

Stop 2: Coyote Creek Area, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
         Discussion of valley vegetation, disturbance regimes, and Holocene history

Stop 3: Triangle Lake and Little Lake
         40,000-year old lake provides records of geomorphic history (erosion regime), fire history, vegetation history, and climate history with unique insights into ice-age environments in the Oregon Coast Range.