

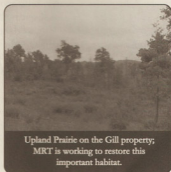
## Restoring Oak Woodlands in Douglas County

In the Spring 2004 newsletter, we reported on the Trust's first Douglas County conservation easement donated by Marilyn Gill, protecting 200 acres of oak habitat for the Columbia Whitetail Deer and other special species. This generous donation has spurred the Trust to plan and begin to implement an exciting restoration strategy for the property, intent on improving the conservation values and providing examples of how landowners may balance economic uses with the natural biodiversity of their land.

Over the summer, the Trust secured a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant of \$53,000 to expand the restoration activities on the property. The grant, through the Private Stewardship Grant Program, will help fund the work of Darin Stringer of Forest Restoration Partnership to eradicate English hawthorn and blackberry from key areas of the property, thin dense stands of oak, conduct controlled burns in some open prairie, and improve the overall conservation value of the land. This \$53,000 is in addition to the \$42,000 the Trust had already secured for the project.

Mrs. Gill is very excited about the work. "There is so much I want to do on the property, but I just don't have the time or energy. These funds are great to have, and I'm happy that Darin and the Trust are doing such a good job."

In 2003, Darin completed a comprehensive Stewardship Plan for the property, and the Trust secured commitment from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to fund \$30,000 of the restoration recommendations from the Plan. The Trust also secured a \$12,000 grant from the Laird Norton Endowment Foundation, bringing the total funds for the restoration to \$95,000. In conjunction with the restoration, Darin will see if small diameter oak trees generated from the restoration can be commercially processed into viable wood products, mostly poles and posts. The Laird Norton funds will fund the research on this possibility, and generate educational materials for landowners interested in doing the same. ❖



Upland Prairie on the Gill property; MRT is working to restore this important habitat.

MARTY RENNING

## Deadwood Creek Property Protected (continued from page 1)

with private landowners to protect properties for public conservation. Working with the Pattisons, the Siuslaw National Forest, and our Congressional elected officials, TPL has crafted a partnership that will see 150 acres of the Pattisons' land protected forever.

80 acres of the 173 acres will be protected with a conservation easement held by the McKenzie River Trust. TPL secured a Landowner Incentive Program grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to purchase the conservation easement. The Trust for Public Land is working to purchase the 93 additional acres from the Pattisons to sell to the Forest Service. MRT is excited to play a role in conserving this special property, and especially in continuing to work with Jesse, Elaine, and their six-year-old daughter Lila. The Pattisons care deeply for the health of their land, and have exhibited excellent stewardship during their 30 plus years living on Deadwood Creek.

The Pattisons recently participated in a creek enhancement project with the Forest Service. The Forest Service used a helicopter to place dozens of large logs in Fawn and Deadwood Creeks. This large wood facilitates the creation of additional salmon spawning and rearing habitat. A number of landowners along Deadwood Creek, including Nancy Nichols and Tom Steinberg, also participated in this wood placement project. ❖