



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oregon Lottery® funds help preserve 27,000 acres of prairie

Salem, Ore., (Mar. 10, 2008) Located in Wallowa County, Zumwalt Prairie is North America's largest remaining grassland of its type. Thanks to Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) investment of Lottery funds, animals on the decline throughout the West have a place to live. The OWEB grant of \$3 million in Lottery funds to the Nature Conservancy in 2001 enabled the Conservancy to buy 26,920 acres near the Snake River and Hells Canyon in northeast Oregon. Zumwalt Prairie is currently featured in Oregon Lottery® TV and radio ads, as well as appearing on statewide billboards.

Ferruginous hawks, Swainson's hawks and golden eagles, as well as prairie falcons and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse call Zumwalt Prairie home. So do herds of elk, abundant ground squirrels and nesting grassland birds, including the western meadowlark, Oregon's state bird. In addition to one of the densest concentrations of nesting birds of prey in North America, at-risk plant species, Wallowa ricegrass and Spalding's catchfly, can be found there.

"A ranching tradition preserved this amazing grassland," said Stephen Anderson, spokesperson for The Nature Conservancy, "and Lottery funds gave us the opportunity to work with the community to protect an important part of Zumwalt Prairie for future generations. We're investing Oregon Lottery dollars in the local economy, bringing in scientists to study the ecosystem, and working with local contractors to restore habitats for fish and wildlife."

The Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie Preserve can be visited via public roads and is open to the public for short hikes. For directions go to www.nature.org/oregon, click on Places We Protect.

Since the Oregon Lottery began selling tickets on April 25, 1985, it has funded over \$225 million for watershed enhancements. Combined, the Lottery has earned over \$5.6 billion for watershed enhancements, public education, state parks and economic development. For more information on the Oregon Lottery visit www.oregonlottery.org

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