

YOU CAN HELP PRESERVE PALOUSE PRAIRIE REMNANTS,

If you own land containing a prairie remnant, you are in an excellent position to help preserve these special places.

You can do this through a voluntary conservation agreement, or **easement**, in which you put restrictions on the future development of your land.

- These agreements are entirely voluntary.
- You may qualify for tax breaks if you set up such an agreement.
- You can customize your easement to fit the particular needs of your family and your situation.
- You can receive assistance with your easement from the Palouse Land Trust.



The Palouse Land Trust is a private, nonprofit organization that is involved in protecting land for its special scenic, historic, or conservation values.

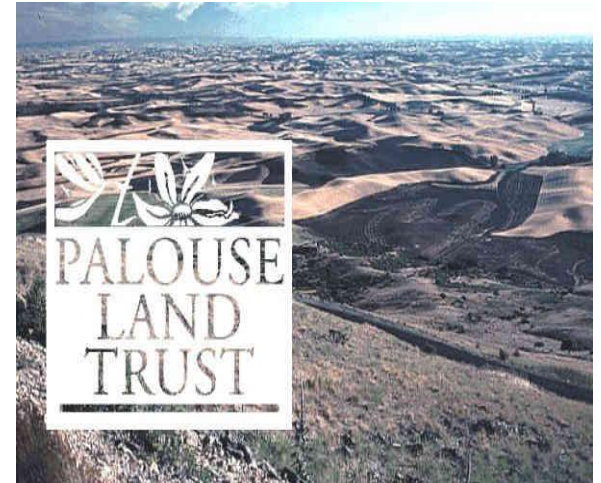
For more information about conservation easements and the tax advantages they confer, contact the **Palouse Land Trust**, PO Box 8506, Moscow, Idaho 83843, (208) 882-5248, archie@moscow.com, www.palouselandtrust.org.

For additional information about Palouse Prairie visit www.palouseprairie.org.



(Photo used with permission of the Garfield County Museum, Pomeroy, Washington.)

Saving Palouse Prairie: A Natural Legacy



This brochure was funded in part by a Challenge Cost-Share Grant from the National Park Service's National Natural Landmarks Program.

As anyone who lives in the Palouse knows, this landscape is not just strikingly beautiful; it is also useful. Capable of producing impressive yields of grains and legumes, the Palouse has become one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world.

What makes these impressive harvests possible?

The answer is found in the region's fertile soils.



This steep roadcut shows the deep, loamy soil that is typical of the Palouse.
(Photo by R. Daubenmire, courtesy of Washington State University Libraries Manuscripts, Archives & Special Collections.)

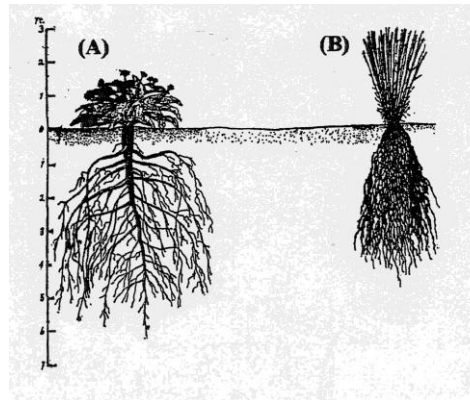
How were these soils formed?

The original Palouse Prairie vegetation that covered these hills included grasses and an impressive array of wildflowers.



(Photo by Karen Gray.)

We see only a small part of a living prairie plant.



The roots of Palouse prairie plants, like arrowleaf balsamroot (A) and bluebunch wheatgrass (B), extend several feet underground.

(From Weaver and Clements, 1938, Plant Ecology, 2nd edn., McGraw-Hill, New York.)

When their extensive root systems decay, the Palouse prairie plants add organic matter to the soil, improving its texture and fertility.

So, in a very real sense, the **Palouse Prairie plants are what made it possible for people to produce high yields of crops in this landscape. For this reason they are an important legacy of the natural heritage that sustains rural, agricultural lifestyles in our region.**

Unfortunately, very few examples of Palouse Prairie remain.



(Photo by R. Daubenmire, courtesy of Washington State University Libraries Manuscripts, Archives & Special Collections.)

TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP PRESERVE PALOUSE PRAIRIE REMNANTS, SEE THE REVERSE SIDE.