



Oregon Wildlife Institute
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The Oregon Wildlife Institute is assisting the City of Albany Parks and Recreation Department create a management plan for native turtles at Thornton Lake. The Lake is one of the few places in the Willamette Valley where both native turtles, the western painted turtle and the western pond turtle, coexist. Much of the management plan will focus on the East Thornton Lake Natural Area owned by the City. However, the plan will also identify volunteer actions that can be taken to benefit turtles by private landowners around the Lake.

During the next year, OWI will be performing several sessions of capturing and marking turtles so that the number of individuals for both species can be estimated in Thornton Lake. The next trapping session is scheduled for early August 2013. Other tasks to be completed include aquatic and terrestrial habitat assessments, locating turtle nesting areas, identifying the most likely limiting factors for turtle populations at the Lake, and conservation recommendations for City and private lands.

Homeowners along the Lake can help now by reporting any sightings of turtles or nesting activity on their property. OWI is also looking for landowners that will allow OWI to place turtle traps temporarily offshore from their homes.

The development of the Thornton Lake turtle management plan is being supported by an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy Implementation Grant.

To report turtle sightings or be placed on the mailing list for future announcements about the turtle management plan, please contact:

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