



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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### Protecting Fender's Blue Butterfly

**Why?** Benton County encompasses some of the highest quality remaining prairie and oak savanna remnants in Oregon. Among the species relying on this vegetation for habitat needs is Fender's blue butterfly, listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2000 as an endangered species.

**How?** In spring of 2006, Benton County received a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). This project will allow the County to provide long-term protection of sensitive species and habitats while providing a more efficient and economical method of constructing on private land. Completion of the HCP is anticipated for 2011.

**Meanwhile** – Until the HCP is completed and approved, Benton County cannot issue permits for activities that may harm the species or its habitat, unless the applicant has authorization from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This applies to all otherwise legal activities, including grading or construction.

**Does your property contain butterfly habitat?** By consulting the mapped areas of potential habitat ( <http://www.co.benton.or.us/cd/> ), you can determine whether development on your property will be subject to special review. Or contact the Community Development Department for assistance.

**Obtaining a building permit in butterfly habitat** – If your property has been mapped as containing butterfly habitat, permits for any type of development will be issued only upon completion of a detailed habitat survey, identifying precisely where on the property butterfly habitat exists and where it does not. The applicant can then either site the construction in the area not containing butterfly habitat, or obtain approval from the USFWS for the proposed impact (which will require compensatory mitigation).

You can obtain a survey in one of two ways:

- Free habitat surveys are offered this year (Spring 2009) only, by the Institute for Applied Ecology. Habitat can only be studied during the spring, therefore it's important to look ahead. If you anticipate any construction or excavation project within the next 2-3 years, have your survey done now. To schedule a survey, call Carolyn Menke, 753-3099 ext 121.
- Contacting the USFWS to schedule a survey by their staff (if available), or by hiring a private contractor for USFWS review. Call Mikki Collins, (503) 231-6179.