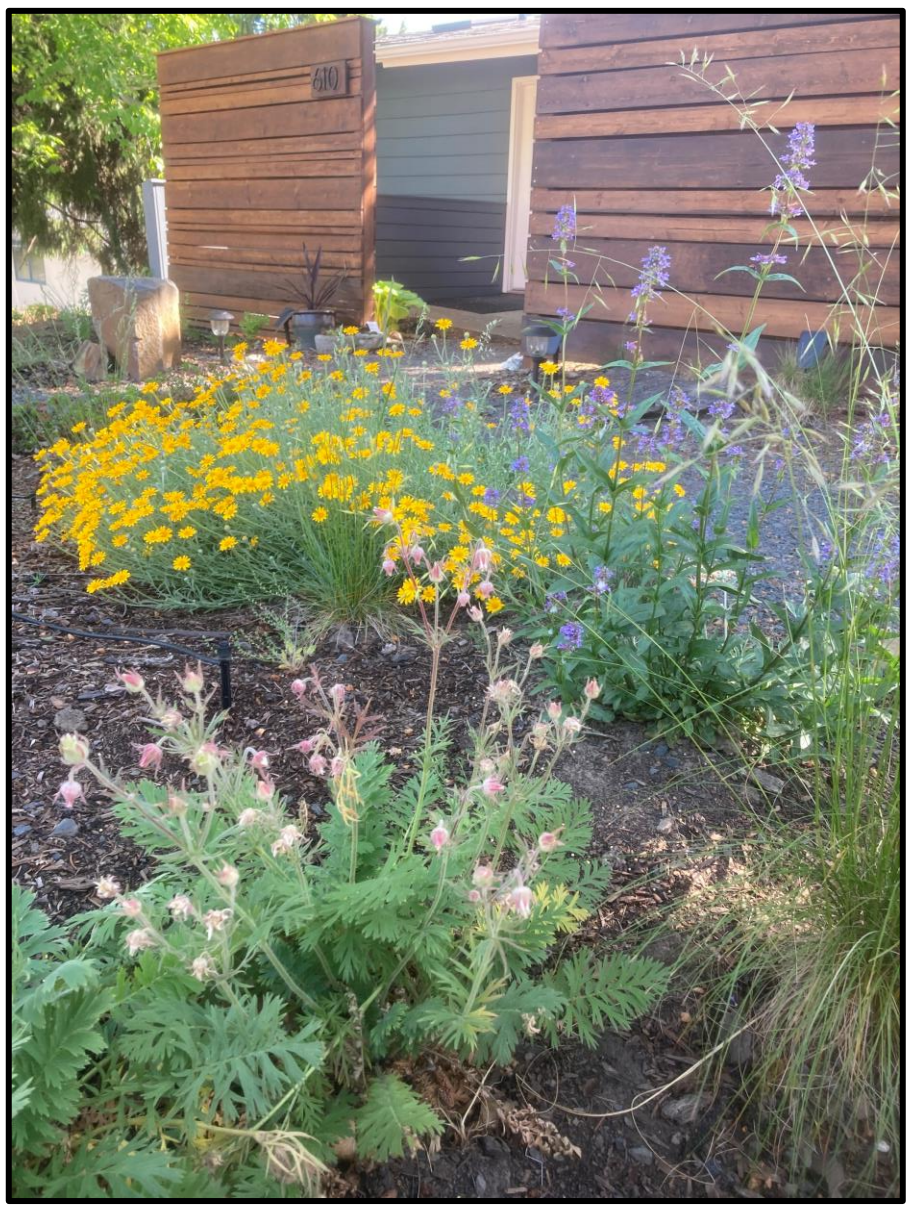
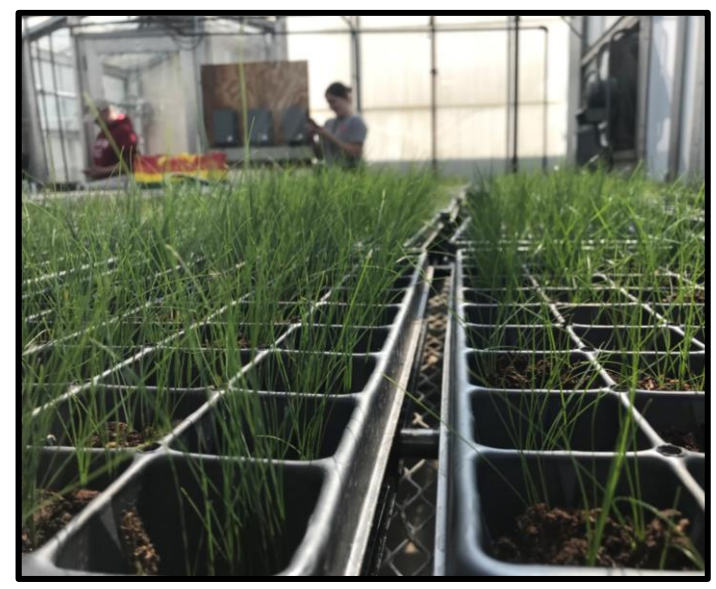
Pocket Prairies: Leveraging Small Urban Spaces as Vital Habitat and Seedbanks for Native Plants

Dr. Chris Duke, Phoenix Conservancy





Presentation: Three major issues threaten the future of Palouse Prairie, 1) A chronic shortage of native plants and seeds, 2) The ecosystem's own obscurity, and 3) Low availability of regular funding for restoration projects. Thanks in part to funding from the White Pine Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society, The Phoenix Conservancy (TPC) is addressing these issues through their Pocket Prairie project. By reestablishing native plants within the urban fabric of the Palouse, even the smallest yard or unused piece of land can become a vital island of habitat. Pocket Prairies confer vital ecosystem services, create easily-accessible seed sources for ongoing restoration, greatly increase awareness of Palouse Prairie and native plants, and provide a source of funding for TPC's restoration projects. Chris Duke will discuss this pragmatic approach for building a restoration engine to secure a future for critically endangered Palouse Prairie.

Dr. Chris Duke holds a Ph.D. in Biology from Washington State University, a M.S. in Biology from Syracuse University, a B.S. in Zoology from Western Washington University. Chris is currently serving as the Executive Director for The Phoenix Conservancy. One of the co-founders of TPC, Chris has worked in the field and taught science at all levels across North and South America. His love of rainforests and passion for restoring degraded ecosystems stems from more a than a decade of global travel, and is a driving force behind his work with our organization. Under Chris's direction as Executive Director since July 2020, The Phoenix Conservancy has grown exponentially despite unprecedented times, greatly increasing TPC's ability to restore endangered ecosystems each year.

7:00 pm PST, Thursday November 16, 2023

Join us in the Lecompte Auditorium, 2nd floor 1912 Center in Moscow, ID

Sponsored by the Idaho Native Plant Society White Pine Chapter