

This bill proposes to reinstate funding for ODA's Native Plant Conservation Program, a program which was mandated by ORS 564, but was largely crippled when federal funds were substituted for Oregon general and lottery funds.

With only federal funds, ODA can only oversee FEDERALLY-listed native plants. Oregon general or lottery funds MUST support this program in order for it to oversee OREGON- listed native plants.

Seventeen active requests and projects are now in limbo without funding at least one position, preferably two or more.

The Oregon list of threatened and endangered native plants is currently in a state of neglect; not only do additional plants deserve inclusion, but a certain number NO LONGER require inclusion.

It is programs like this that help sustain species like the Monarch Butterfly, nearly doomed when human development, particularly agricultural activity, decimated its staple food, the native Milkweed plant. We are mandated to remain vigilant in a world now hastening toward massive species reduction. Each loss leaves an ever-widening gap in life-sustaining biodiversity and affects many more species in the chain of life.

"It shall be the duty of the State Department of Agriculture and of all its officers and employees to see that the provisions of ORS 564.020 are enforced."