



It is critical to provide part Oregon sourced funding (General Fund or Lottery) for ODA's Native Plant Conservation Program, and to provide enough funding for adequate staffing, so that it may fulfill its legislatively mandated roles. We have kicked this can down the road for far too long. If we do not pay attention, habitat will be damaged and species will go extinct because of our neglect.

Members of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, Portland Chapter, invest hundreds of volunteer hours each year attempting to protect local native plant populations by invasive species removal, habitat restoration, conducting species inventories in natural areas, and monitoring rare plant populations. I'm sure this is also true of the members in other NPSO chapters around the state. I personally have been involved for a number of years as a volunteer at Metro's Native Plant Center, propagating at-risk native plants including Nelson's Checkermallow and White Rock Larkspur. We gladly give of our time for this work, but we wish that our tax dollars might support the state oversight and protection of our far-flung and diverse native plant communities. This takes more than a volunteer effort.

Please fund the ODA Native Plant Conservation Program.

Liz Dally, Secretary, Native Plant Society of Oregon, Portland Chapter.