

Submitter: Jessica Beauchemin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

I am writing in support of establishing Oregon Flora into statute. Oregon Flora is an invaluable resource to all Oregonians and anyone interested in the cultivation, protection and appreciation of the diverse flora in the state. I personally log on to the Oregon Flora website at least a couple times a week to educate myself about the plants and learn more about connections between recreation, land use and native plants. As an avid outdoor user and amateur botanist, Oregon Flora has helped me become more invested in protecting native plants and understand why they matter.

Scientific researchers, horticulturalists, researchers, wildlands managers, hobbyists, farmers and countless others can use this resource for their own knowledge and awareness of Oregon's native plants. The latest book in progress will also include generations of indigenous knowledge which will continue to inform today's management of public lands and help people become more connected to the places they live, work and play.

We live in a time where we are all in need of more connection to each other and to nature. Oregon Flora has been putting in the work for the last 30 years and it's time the state recognizes the value of their efforts and provide a permanent funding source.