

Submitter: Doranne Long

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

2.2.2025 (Groundhog Day)

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Re: HB 3173 (Oregon Flora) - SUPPORT to help fund the OregonFlora program at OSU.

Dear Committee members: I am in strong support of OregonFlora and HB3173. I live in Grants Pass; our property is adjacent to the Cathedral Hills Trail System. This Josephine County property, managed by BLM, provides 400 acres of healthy forest, and trails for hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. It hosts two trees on the Oregon Champion Tree Registry: a 25-foot-tall whiteleaf manzanita and a 117-foot-tall knobcone pine. <https://www.blm.gov/visit/cathedral-hills-trail-system>.

Several years ago, I was the project manager for creating a Wildflowers of the Cathedral Hills brochure. I worked with the Siskiyou chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, BLM botanists, and other wildflower enthusiasts and photographers. The result is a beautiful four fold flyer with 81 wildflower species listed, with color photos, along with their common and Latin names.

This brochure would not have been created without the invaluable assistance of OregonFlora!! Many of the photos were provided by Gerry Carr, who graciously donated them to OregonFlora. OregonFlora has created a species list for the Cathedral Hills, which is even more complete than the brochure. OregonFlora has also created an Oregon Wildflower app. OregonFlora works tirelessly to collect flora information, which is becoming ever more complicated as DNA is now being used to better identify plants. Names of plants are frequently being updated.

OregonFlora works to identify, and protect preserve Oregon's rare plants. This helps to preserve our pollinators. As plants are identified, it then leads to looking for corresponding pollinators. Just this past summer, we identified Variable Checkerspot caterpillars gorging on Warrior's Plume, previously known as Indian Warrior, *pedicularis densiflora*. It was not known that these caterpillars fed on the Warrior's Plume. There is so much we don't know, and what is learned needs to be shared with the public.

OregonFlora not only identifies plants, but educates the public about choosing the best plants for their particular landscape. It is important we focus on successfully managing, and promoting, the growth of our native plant species to provide food for our pollinators. The public has a long way to go to recognize this desperate need. For example a native oak tree provides habitat and food for up hundreds of species, while a red maple, commonly planted, provides little assistance.

I urge your support of House Bill 3173 to ensure the resources of OregonFlora can

continue to be maintained and developed for users statewide.

Sincerely,

Doranne Long, PT, MS,