

I am writing in support of permanent funding for the Oregon Flora Project (OFP). As a botanist (retired) I find the outputs of this project both the hardcopy books and the Website to be exceeding useful. In searching for unusual plants, it is amazing that one can find information about the plant in question using the on-line data extracted from the Oregon State University herbarium through the OFP website and then go to that location at the time that it was reported to flower and find it! Such was the case in finding a specimen of *Hackelia ophiobia* (Boraginaceae, forget-me-not family) needed for a research project. It was possible to go to that place at Three Forks in the Owyhees of eastern Oregon. After driving for miles up and down steep hills, I could stop at the crossing, walk to the base of the slope, and voilá there was the plant!

When the OFP was started there were few accounts of vascular plants in Oregon and those were all outdated as well as biased toward plants of the Willamette Valley area. Information was especially sparse about the plants from southern and eastern Oregon. For the OFP great effort has been made to include all the plants from Oregon especially those not well known previously. Many plant species not known from Oregon have been discovered.

Knowledge of the plants of eastern Oregon has been especially useful to those working on restoration projects for which seed stock is needed of plants that are now somewhat rare. Sites must be located such that the plants to be used in restoration can be located when they are flowering to make sure of the identity of the plants. Then later in year when these same plants are in seed, the seeds can be collected and multiplied for use in the restoration projects.

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