

Submitter: Barbara Wilson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

Please support Oregon House Bill 3173, which would establish Oregon Flora Project in statute and initiate a sustainable funding stream for it. For the past 25 years, OFP has sorted through herbarium specimens and other records to determine which plants grow in Oregon and which do not -- essential background information used by everyone from farmers dealing with new weeds to botanical researchers. This basic data has informed the rare plant guides OFP has produced as well as the Flora of Oregon, a comprehensive resource for plant identification, 2 of the 3 volumes completed so far.

OFP's website is professional, informative, and easy to use. In my botanical consulting work I visit the project's website multiple times each week to determine a plant's correct name, where it has been found in Oregon, or what it looks like. The thousands of unique visits to the website each month suggest others find it valuable, also.

The Oregon Flora Project was started by volunteers and for the past 25 years or so it has been run by volunteers and funded by grants, with a little support from the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. More than once, it has come close to dying due to inconsistent funding. It's doing a great job. Please help it keep going.

-- Barbara L. Wilson  
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