

2 February2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Re: HB 3173 (Oregon Flora) - SUPPORT

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of HB 3173, funding for Oregon Flora. I worked as a Botanist for Coos Bay BLM for over 20 years (I am recently retired) and routinely used their database to help me complete specialist reports as part of an Interdisciplinary Team that put together timber sales for the Coos Bay District of the Bureau of Land Management. The Oregon Flora project is an invaluable resource which many specialists use to assess and ID plants, some rare some not. The project has also produced a new Oregon Flora (two volumes so far, the third still in progress) which students, professionals, Botanist, and anyone interested in plants can use to help identify all of Oregon's amazing flora. In addition to these flora identification guides which are a major achievement, there is also a most incredible website, the Oregon Flora atlas, which is an easy to use and constantly updated internet site for plant identification. I cannot imagine how I would have been able to do my job as a Botanist with the Coos Bay District Office without having access to this superlative resource.

Permanent funding for Oregon Flora is long overdue. The project has solicited funding as best they could for many years but currently is in dire need of a permanent source of funding. HB 3173 will ensure that Oregon Flora can continue as an essential tool and valuable resource available to professionals as well as anyone interested in Oregon plants.

Thanks,

*Tim*

Tim Rodenkirk  
Former Myrtlewood Field Office Botanist  
Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management  
Retired in 2023