

Dear Committee members:

I am a retired US Forest Service botanist, member of Oregon Native Plant Society, and an Oregon State Extension Master Gardener in Klamath County. I have contributed to and used the information in OregonFlora since its beginnings in the 1990's. I strongly support the long-term funding of this program through HB 3173 for the following reasons:

- We are very lucky to have such diverse and abundant natural resources in our state. OregonFlora collects and maintains information about all of the non-cultivated vascular plants that grow here, and is an invaluable source for learning about and maintaining Oregon's botanical resources and habitats.
- Prior to OregonFlora, there was no modern flora that addressed the Klamath County area. Having a comprehensive state-wide resource has been incredibly useful.
- I often use OregonFlora multiple times a week to help identify plants; look at photos; check plant habitats, occurrences, and ranges; query what species occur in a particular area; and look up taxonomic changes.
- The website is user-friendly and accessible for a wide array of people with an interest in plants- professional botanists, resource managers, gardeners, tribal members, hobbyists, etc. The information provided is free, accurate, and continually updated.
- In Klamath County, there is increasing interest in gardening with native plants, especially for use in xeriscaping and creating pollinator habitat. OregonFlora has been a leader in promoting native plant gardening, and I often refer people to the website for information.
- OregonFlora is already an existing successful program that was developed over the last 30 years with an assortment of grants, donations, and volunteer contributions. Passage of HB 3173 would ensure its continuation for a relatively modest sum, thereby taking advantage of, and building upon, all of the work that has been done to date.

Please consider support of House Bill 3173 to ensure the resources of OregonFlora can continue to be maintained and developed for users statewide.

Sincerely,
Sarah Malaby