

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Re: HB 3173 (Oregon Flora) - SUPPORT

Dear Committee members,

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read my testimony in support of House Bill 3173. My name is Kathryn Manning and I am a Botany Technician with the US Forest Service with a B.S. in Botany from Oregon State University. I cannot overstate what an important role Oregon Flora has played in my life and career. I was first introduced to Oregon Flora through a plant identification course at OSU, and quickly became obsessed with exploring plant diversity through their website. The most amazing thing about this website is that it makes the wonderful world of Oregon plants fully accessible to those outside of academia- also the perfect tool for a budding botanist to learn our flora! They provide interactive maps, beautiful photos, and definitions of any confusing botanical vocabulary alongside scientifically thorough descriptions of species. As I grew into the botanist I am today, The Flora of Oregon Vol. 1 and 2 became my best companions in the field. Oregon Flora's website and dichotomous keys are the most valuable resources in the state for identifying and understanding the distribution of Oregon plants- period. These days, as a botanist working on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, I use these resources daily to learn about new plants I come across and to identify (often cryptic) species. I truly could not do my work effectively without them. The Flora of Oregon is the cumulative knowledge of hundreds of years of taxonomic research compiled into a few books. The publishing of Vol. 3 is heavily anticipated in the Oregon botany community, which has been delayed due to lack of funding. Our world needs plant diversity and educated people who can aid in the conservation and restoration of these invaluable species. Oregon Flora supports botanists, native gardeners, farmers, conservationists, land managers, educators and a diverse population of amateur naturalists (to name a few). It is critical that Oregon Flora receives funding to continue providing these incredible services to Oregonians. Oregon is known for its scenic beauty and dedication to protecting natural areas. Oregon Flora provides invaluable data on our native plant communities, which is critical to supporting healthy, resilient, sustainable forests. Please do not let these precious resources slip away. Let us continue to make Oregon an example of healthy ecosystems that propel us into a brighter economic future. Support botanical education by supporting House Bill 3173!

Thank you so much for your time, and happy botanizing!

-Kathryn Manning

[Kathryn.manning@usda.gov](mailto:Kathryn.manning@usda.gov); 816-258-3784