

Submitter: Marcia Wineteer

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

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

Regarding: Support for HB 3173

Dear Representatives,

I'm writing to urge you to support HB 3173 to ensure continued and sustainable funding for OregonFlora.

I grew up in southwestern Oregon and first became interested in Oregon's native plants in 1976. Twenty years later I started my professional career with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. I have worked for over twenty years as an agency botanist, responsible for managing botanical resources on public lands – rare plants, native plants, and nonnative invasive plants.

The resources on the Oregon Flora website are available to quickly provide information needed to make decisions about how to conserve native plants and control nonnative plants. Published floras are very useful, but the Oregon Flora updates information about species' names, distribution, and the presence of nonnative invasive plants. It's imperative to have the most recent information when government agencies publish documents discussing botanical issues. I have used the OregonFlora to:

- verify plant identification (plant identification tool),
- find out if a newly identified specie is native to Oregon or a nonnative (Checklist)
- find out the distribution of a specie across the landscape – if it's common or rare or widespread or limited to a small area (Oregon Plant Atlas)
- use pictures to confirm identifications (Photo Gallery)
- keep updated on the names of species, including previous names (Checklist)

The rare plant section contains excellent information about our rare plants that is useful in managing these species, including distribution, natural history and pollinators, habitat association, conservation efforts, and threats.

I've also used the atlas for plant identification while recreating in different regions of Oregon and the gardening with natives page for ideas on which native plants to try in

my yard.

Oregon Flora needs continuing funding to update the website and to be able to publish additional floras.