

February 6, 2025

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

Re: HB 3173 (Oregon Flora) - SUPPORT

Dear Committee members:

I am a recently retired botanist/land manager with 35 years of experience caring for Oregon's native flora. I strongly support HB 3173.

During my career with the US Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy I relied on the Oregon Flora Project to support much of my work to maintain and enhance the health of Oregon's forests, shrublands, prairies and wetlands for nature and people. The Oregon Flora Project's 1.48 million mappable plant occurrence records, 63,000+ color field photos, and fact sheets for every plant taxon enabled me to:

- Accurately identify and document plant diversity in important habitats and conservation areas leading to thoughtful management, protection and restoration of Oregon's natural resources.
- Inform the development of habitat-specific and climate-resilient native seed mixes for use in land management activities such as prescribed fire and wetland enhancement and for native plant and wildlife recovery following wildfires.
- Protect native plant communities through the identification of new invasive plants.
- Validate discoveries of plant species new to an area as well as plants thought to be extirpated.
- Work efficiently and with confidence - earlier floras do not provide comprehensive coverage for SW Oregon thus requiring multiple sources for plant identification.
- Provide an essential easy-to-use plant ID resource to share with the public during educational activities for the enjoyment, discovery and appreciation of our native flora.

I believe \$400,000 is a small investment to make towards the documentation and preservation of Oregon's rich botanical heritage. I urge your support of House Bill 3173 to ensure the resources of OregonFlora can continue to be maintained and developed for users statewide.

Sincerely,



Molly Morison

1125 Morey Rd

Talent, OR 97540

molly@upperfivevineyard.com