

Submitter: Lisa Morton
On Behalf Of: HB 3173
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

I am writing in support of HB 3173 which, if supported would which would establish the OregonFlora database in statute and initiate a funding to maintain this valuable resource for academics, professionals and all citizens interested in maintaining the diversity of Oregon's precious flora.

This database maintains information on nearly 5,000 plant species that grow across Oregon, many of which are native and rare to Oregon's plant communities. This information is free and widely used, including by myself. Last year alone saw over 700,000 hits accessing OregonFlora's over 63,000 photos, (some of which I have curated), and the nearly 1.5 million species and varietal occurrence records mapped throughout the state.

A LOT of effort has gone into creating this website and the Flora. Many people have given their time and effort to make this Flora the definitive resource for Oregonians for years to come! Amazing!

In addition to the color photos and maps, there are fact sheets, gardening advice and herbarium specimens. And these are being added to everyday!

The OregonFlora is a resource for EVERYONE. Lay-people, professionals, academics, you name it! It isn't just a bunch of pretty pictures. It saves time and money for file workers, data collectors, state agency representatives, biologists, botanists who are trying to better understand Oregon's rich diversity and how it is used by wildlife and people.

Oregon's economy is based on its botanical resources. Healthy forests, productive rangelands, agricultural operations, outdoor recreation venues, and native plant horticultural endeavors all need reliable data about our state's plants, which OregonFlora provides.

We help government agencies be more efficient by standardizing and consolidating data from many sources. We provide a definitive dataset, break down data silos, and reduce duplication of effort, thereby amplifying botanical knowledge across organizations.

Land managers need the up-to-date plant taxonomy and distribution info we provide

to effectively respond to noxious weeds, rare species, and plant selection for wildfire recovery, restoration projects, and urban native plant gardening/landscaping.

We increase the scientific literacy of Oregonians with easy-to-use online resources. Our data informs Master Gardener and Naturalist programs, pollinator conservation, Native Plant Society of Oregon activities, backyard habitat certification, wildflower shows, Conservation District native plant sales, and natural areas/nature centers.

Please do your best for Oregon,

Thank you!

Lisa Morton