



**OREGON CHAPTER OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**
PO Box 2378
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FROM: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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

SUBJECT: HB 3173 (Oregon Flora) - SUPPORT

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) appreciates your consideration of HB 3173 and the opportunity to provide comments. ORTWS would like to express our strong support of this bill and emphasize the importance of providing Oregon State University the grant of \$400,000 enabling them to continue administering this invaluable tool.

ORTWS represents nearly 600 wildlife professionals from many areas of public and private enterprises composed of students, scientists, educators, technicians, consultants, biologists, and land managers. These professionals in our organization dedicate their lives to managing, conserving, and studying wildlife populations and their habitats throughout Oregon. Our mission is to inspire, empower, and enable Oregon's wildlife professionals and students to promote science-based wildlife conservation and management through the participation and leadership of an open and inclusive community of members. One of our organization's goals is to develop and maintain programs that facilitate professional development of natural resource professionals including the development of training programs and educational materials such as OregonFlora.

We are in support of HB 3173 because it closely aligns with our mission and is a valuable tool that many wildlife professionals within our organization utilize. OregonFlora provides an online herbarium of over 4,750 species, has an interactive mapping tool that shows plant distributions across the state, and has a plant identifier tool. These resources are extremely beneficial for landowners, land managers, researchers, students, and the public who benefit from the plant identification, known distribution, and habitat association information provided by the tool. OregonFlora provides our members with a tool to assist them as they conduct research and manage habitats that wildlife species depend on. We look forward to the opportunity to continue using this resource for many years down the road.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Regards,

ORTWS Board of Directors