

Submitter: Elaine Stewart  
On Behalf Of: HB3173 Oregon Flora  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Please fund the Oregon Flora (HB3173). It is a critical resource for land managers, agencies, researchers and hobbyists in our state. This single authority on plant identification, including whether native or introduced, is a important tool used by people throughout the state.

One aspect of the flora is that it enables people to correctly identify plants and determine whether they are native. This step seems simple but is essential before moving forward with any land management or weed treatment plans. First, you must know what you have. The flora is current, chapters are written by subject matter experts, and it is specific to our state. This saves time and resources that would otherwise be spent researching the information from other sources. Investment in OFP saves money for our state and local agencies.

The flora also provides a snapshot of our plant biodiversity. Understanding how many plants occur in Oregon, whether they are at risk of extirpation, and where they occur is necessary to support healthy habitats and the wildlife that depend on them. In a changing climate, we need to know and understand our plant, fish and wildlife communities if we are to ensure that they persist.

The flora has educational to researchers, land managers, students, gardeners and hobbyists. The two published volumes contain chapters describing the state and its ecoregions and habitats; the third and final volume will include Indigenous voices describing historic and current value of native plants and communities. The online flora includes information on gardening with native plants, which can help recover our native pollinators that are in trouble. And of course, the flora enables correct identification of native and naturalized (introduced) plants across our state.

Please provide stable funding for this important resource. Thank you!