

Submitter: Jordan Brown
On Behalf Of: HB3173 OregonFlora
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

While I work as a botanist with the State of Oregon, I am writing as a private individual to express my strong support for HB3173, which will fund OregonFlora with \$400,000 in the 2025 Legislative session. OregonFlora currently relies exclusively on donations and grants to provide essential plant diversity information to agencies, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and educators. This bill would leverage OregonFlora's broad community support and ensure these resources can be maintained and further developed in the future.

In my work, I must know both the scope of plant diversity and the details about individual species within large regions of Oregon. There are 4,886 unique vascular plants that grow in the wild in Oregon, and 70% of these are native species. There are 1.48 million mappable occurrences of these plants shared on the oregonflora.org website.

OregonFlora does the taxonomic research to provide accurate circumscription and descriptions for all these plant species. It is essential in my work to have current and accurate botanical and taxonomic references to properly identify threatened and endangered plants before ever being able to manage for their conservation and recovery.

OregonFlora brings important efficiencies to my work of natural resources management. It provides statewide context by assembling data from multiple sources that otherwise might not be available nor in a consistent format. As a clearinghouse of plant information, it eliminates data silos, lessening the chance for duplication of efforts and multiplying the knowledge across agencies. Importantly, I know that the content is scientifically accurate and up-to-date.

The body of plant diversity information is always increasing and changing, especially as we respond to wildfires, nurture sustainable rangeland and forests, and respond to invasive species. For state agencies addressing natural resources, OregonFlora is a resource that gives workers tools to locate, identify, and understand plant communities, native species, rare plants, and invasive/noxious weeds statewide. In other words, it helps state agencies meet their mission.