

Testimony in Support of the OregonFlora Project HB3173 under HB5006

I am writing as a member of the Friends of the Owyhees organization, Sensitive Plant Program. This program monitors the sensitive plants in the very large lands known as the Owyhees in Malheur County in southeastern Oregon. The sensitive plants include a number of unusual and unique plants that are only found in this habitat. In order to monitor them i.e. know if they are thriving year after year it is necessary to find them initially and return to record their population size, density, flowering and fruiting times. Use of the data available through the OregonFlora is **essential** for doing this project based on the data found there on the localities and previously known flowering times of these project. This project would not be possible without these data. The sensitive plant project is critical for determining the health of the Owyhees, a truly unique habitat in Oregon.

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