

HB 3173 OregonFlora Please help us accomplish phenomenal things:

To protect what we have in Oregon we need to know exactly what it is we have. This is the reason we need to protect the OregonFlora. Protecting Oregon's ecosystems requires that we find out what is out there. We must collect and ID what we have collected and keep a collection of these collected organisms.

In 2014 I served on the 'Task Force on Pollinator Health' HB 4139. The Oregon Bee Atlas came about due to HB-4139. One of the important goals that HB-4139 addressed was how to protect and enhance the pollinators Oregon has. A critical component is we did not know how many plants are pollinated or by whom. This would be addressed by the OregonFlora and the Oregon Bee Atlas.

The people of Oregon and the Joint Ways & Means Committee need to support this irreplaceable 'Gem' that has taken thousands of hours of work to build. I have been a pivotal supporter of OregonFlora through the years, giving time, expertise, and money.

It is importance to remember that OregonFlora has made the Information freely accessible through its <https://oregonflora.org> website, which had 700,000+ pageviews last year. We present 1.48 million mapped plant occurrence records, 63,000+ color field photos, sophisticated search and identification tools, and fact sheets for every single plant species.

Thank you for your support of OregonFlora. Thank you for your service to Oregon.

Richard Little, Sweet Home