

Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland

2015 Botany Program Accomplishments

Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plants:

- Set up monitoring plots and collected field data for ISSSSP-funded project to determine population trend and threats to Wallowa needlegrass (*Achnatherum wallowaensis*). All five known populations on the Ochoco NF were monitored.
- Revisited Peck's mariposa lily (*Calochortus longebarbatus* var. *peckii*) within the Gap Landscape Restoration project area to improve habitat mapping and assess population status.
- Revisited four sites of moonwort (*Botrychium crenulatum*; *B. montanum*); no plants were observed at the sites.

Conservation Education – *too many to list, highlights include* :

- Ochoco Botanists engaged Powell Butte Charter School students to collect data on riparian vegetation.
- Worked with Madras High School Transition Program to root willows in the school greenhouse and plant them at Willow Creek, Crooked River National Grassland.
- Presented plant identification training for Culver Middle School art students for their project to document and illustrate Haystack Reservoir plants.

Unique Plants, Habitats and Pollinators:

- Worked with Madras High School Transition Program to grow milkweed to create a future school pollinator garden.
- Surveyed 20 acres of fens on Lookout Mt. District in the Brush Creek Headwaters. Identified several fen-obligate bryophytes, documented grazing use and the only known population of *Eriophorum gracile* on the Ochoco NF.
- Participated with wildlife biologists in silver bordered fritillary field trip to look at occupied habitat and characterize associated plant communities.
- Assisted in creating Monarch Milkweed Garden at Clarno Hardwood Facility

Habitat Restoration:

- Participated in interdisciplinary team field trips to assess vegetation treatments in riparian habitat conservation areas and proposed stream restoration projects.

Other:

- Provided botany support for Multiple Indicator Monitoring on forest grazing allotments.



Fig. 1. Range tech, Viri Serna, sets up a transect for Wallowa needlegrass data collection.



Fig. 2. Ochoco and Deschutes Botanists help establish a milkweed garden at Clarno Hardwood facility for the monarch butterfly.



Fig. 3. Botanist, Jill Welborn, teaches plant identification to Culver Middle School art students.



Fig. 4. Paulina Botanists survey for Peck's mariposa lily for the Gap Project.

2015 Accomplishments

Total NFWF Funding = \$25,762

Other funding: NFIM, NFTM, NFWW, WFHF

Partners: Powell Butte & Madras Schools, Central Oregon Community College, OSU Cascades, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council.

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