

Ochoco National Forest

2013 Botany Program Accomplishments

Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plants:

- Completed ISSSSP project report for Henderson's needlegrass (*Achnatherum hendersonii*) baseline population and habitat conditions.
- Surveyed 159 acres of rare plant habitat for various projects.
- Monitored Blue Mt. milk vetch (*Astragalus tegetarioides*) and Peck's mariposa lily (*Calochortus longebarbatus* var. *peckii*), in accordance with Peck's mariposa lily Conservation Strategy.
- Collaborated with Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center (WWETAC) to collect data on invasion of winter annual grasses in rare plant habitat for a risk assessment model.
- Conducted ISSSSP-sponsored high elevation surveys for rare bryophytes.
- Completed 16 Biological Evaluations, provided project support, participated on Interdisciplinary Teams, conducted field surveys, completed botanical analysis, and entered data into NRM TESP-Invasives Database.

Conservation Education:

- Taught Crook County High School students about the importance of native plants and riparian vegetation for watershed health.
- Co-led a public hike on Otter ridge as part of a community READ program and taught the public about native plants and their habitats.
- Gave a presentation on Botany careers to Madras High School.
- Worked with Crook County Middle School's Outdoor School program to update Natural Resource curricula, provide teacher training, and train mentors in watershed ecology.
- Participated in curricula development for the Deschutes Children's Forest.

Unique Plants and Habitats:

- Provided botanical expertise for monitoring Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems as part of an integrated resource team.
- Assisted the Ecology group on monitoring the recovery of riparian vegetation in grazing allotments.
- Collected seeds from native milkweed, *Asclepias speciosa*.

Habitat Restoration:

- Restored terrestrial habitat by planting 420 native plants on 6.5 acres and seeding 825 lbs. of seed on 1,252 ac.
- An additional 2,967 ac. of weed treatments benefitted terrestrial and riparian habitats.
- Identified meadow habitats for reversing conifer encroachment; propose future tree removal & prescribed burning to improve habitat for Peck's mariposa lily.
- Implemented restoration projects and developed revegetation plans for various projects across the Lookout Mt. and Paulina Ranger Districts and Crooked River National Grassland.



Figure 1. Sensitive Peck's mariposa lily occurs only on the Ochoco National Forest.



Figure 2. Krista Lopez teaching children at Crook County Outdoor School.



Figure 3. Redmond Proficiency Academy students assist in monitoring of Henderson's needlegrass.

2013 Accomplishments

Total NFWF Funding = \$24,498
TES plant surveys (159 ac.)
TES plant monitoring (200 ac.)
Habitat Restoration (240 ac. of native planting/seeding; 2,967 weed treatments)
These accomplishments funded by NFIM, NFTM, NFWW, WFHF

Partners: Redmond Proficiency Academy, Crooked River Watershed Council, Prineville & Madras Schools, FS Ecologists, FS WWETAC,

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