

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

2012 Botany Program Accomplishments

NRIS Database Updates. Hooray, as a result of painstaking efforts, we finally have our extensive sighting and survey records properly migrated into NRIS! Quality control was completed on 867 TES surveys. In addition, data quality checks were checked/amended/corrected for approximately 350 records that were extracted from the MBS-OLY Area Ecology Program's data, a great addition to our knowledge of rare plants on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Monitoring and Rare Plant

Conservation. MBS continued our partnership with U of Washington's RareCare program. Last fall RareCare made a successful seed collection of few-flowered sedge (*Carex pauciflora*) from Mt. Pilchuck, on the Darrington District. This is an R6 Sensitive species on the southern edge of its range. Because of a warming climate, it is especially important to monitor edge species for changes in health, abundance and distribution. RareCare will preserve the seeds in a temperature and humidity controlled seed vault for possible re-introduction in the future. In 2012 RareCare also monitored 2 sites on the Mt. Baker District – glaucous gentian (*Gentiana glauca*) along Skyline Divide, and pygmy saxifrage (*Saxifraga hypoborea*) near Mt. Herman.

Conservation Biology Partnerships.

The Forest Botanist participated in an effort spearheaded by DNR's Washington Natural Heritage Program to populate the new Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) database. Professional botanists from all over Washington gathered to rank 4,292 vascular plants by their association and/or likelihood to occur within an intact ecosystem. Species most likely to occur in a pristine habitat got a high score, while introduced, invasive plants received a low score. The FQA database will be used to evaluate habitats for a variety of purposes.



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Project Support. In 2012 the MBS Botany Program supported large vegetation management projects, ERFO flood repair projects, geothermal consent to lease projects, hydroelectric relicensing projects, ski area management projects, riparian restoration projects, recreation and trails projects, and lands & minerals projects



Boreal jewelweed (*Impatiens noli-tangere*)

New Finds. The new North Zone Botanist found a population of round-leaved orchid (*Platanthera orbiculata*) in the Suiattle River drainage (Survey & Manage species), a population of goblin's gold moss (*Schistostega pennata*) in the East Fork Sauk River drainage (Survey & Manage species), and 3 new sites of boreal jewelweed (*Impatiens noli-tangere*) in the Nooksack River drainage (WA Strategic Species). This plant had not been previously documented on the Forest and only one site was previously known to exist in Washington State.

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TES Plant Inventory: approximately 2,417 acres for a variety of projects funded variously by NFTM, CMRD, CMTL, NFVW, NFWF, NFLM, RAC job codes, and Special Use Permit Agreements.

Check out the MBS Botany Program on our website!
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/about/botany-program.shtml>

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