

# NATIVE PLANTS

## Pollinator species, rare plants

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) are committed to combatting invasive plants, particularly in newly disturbed areas. Heavy equipment is inspected prior to beginning work on the National Forests and Grassland and only weed-free hay and mulch is allowed. Partnerships with counties and local municipalities are an important tool to accomplishing this work.

► In summer 2012, pollinator species such as butterflies and bees were attracted to native wildflowers seeded in a disturbed area on National Forest System (NFS) lands at Winter Park Resort. The seeds were sown in 2011 as part of the Sulphur Ranger District's **Pollinator Projects Partnership** with the Arapaho Roosevelt Pawnee Foundation.

► Not all weeds grow in areas where they can be easily reached with a truck mounted delivery system. Weeds that take hold in **remote areas** pose a challenging threat to native plant populations. Each year, the ARP funds contractors to carry herbicide sprayers on horseback into areas inaccessible by roads and motorized trails to help combat invasive species.

► The ARP is leading the region in surveying and gathering occurrence data for numerous **rare plant species** to better understand their prevalence and diversity. To date, forest botanists have discovered two new species of moonworts, primitive fern-like plants that are rare in Region 2.

► The ARP treated 4,417 acres for the control of **noxious weeds**. The Forest also utilized partnerships to help combat the spread of invasive plants. Volunteers in Larimer and Boulder counties logged several hundred hours in 2012 completing weed inventories or treatments.

► On the Boulder Ranger District, staff has partnered with **TEENS, Inc.** since 2005 to inventory and treat noxious weeds in and around the district. This partnership, which includes Boulder and Gilpin counties and now the University of Colorado began as the YEWTH project (Youth Eradicating Weeds Threatening Habitat) successfully obtaining over \$50,000 in grant funding and treating nearly 600 acres of noxious weeds on NFS lands. This unique partnership provides a valuable job training experience where Nederland's youth become local experts and teach local residents about weeds.

► Canyon Lakes Ranger District and Larimer County have utilized funding under the **Secure Rural Schools Act** to cooperatively treat noxious weeds in areas of high concern on the district. More than 940 acres of treatment occurred in 2012, with areas of the Hewlett and High Park fires targeted for Burned Area Emergency Response funding in 2013.



Purple lady slipper at Winter Park Resort on the Sulphur Ranger District.

## PLANTS 2012FACTS

**Did you know?** Some beautiful plants such as the oxeye daisy are actually noxious weeds that outcompete native plants and ultimately remove food sources for species such as ants, butterflies and bees.



Volunteers from Grand County Wildemess Group participated in the Daisy Demolition/Weed Warrior Day at Monarch Lake, removing more than 260 pounds of noxious weeds, including the oxeye daisy shown here, from the area around the lake.