

Shasta-McCloud Native Plant Interpretive Garden Shasta-Trinity National Forest

2010 Accomplishments

The Shasta Trinity National Forest, California designed and developed interpretive signs for two new areas of the native plant interpretive garden. This garden, located at the Mt. Shasta Ranger District was recently created to highlight species and plant communities that require ample sunshine to thrive.

The established garden beds include wet and dry meadows, aspen wetlands, black oak woodlands, and serpentine outcrops. Many of the associated values such as wildlife habitat and the importance to native pollinators and rare plants are identified. The two new areas focus on fire dependant species and the sagebrush and bitterbrush steppe; a plant community common in the Great Basin of the western US and on the northeast slopes of Mt. Shasta.

The signs were designed and completed by a UC Davis Botany Intern, who also illustrated five other signs. These new signs contain information on species and plant communities historically dependent on fire for propagation and their wildlife forage value. In some areas these communities are declining due to the lack or absence of fire.

Recognizing the role of fire in these fire adapted ecosystems helps national forest visitors understand the importance of restoration projects using prescribed fire. This garden is visited by numerous school groups, garden clubs, and forest visitors. It is also included in the USFS Celebrating Wildflowers web site as a Viewing Area for the Pacific Southwest Region, California, Hawaii, and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands:



Figure 1. Plants of the sagebrush/bitterbrush steppe habitat displayed in the garden.



Figure 2. Biological Technician standing next to a burned snag in the new fire dependant species portion of the garden. This snag, found fallen in the forest, was brought into the garden to demonstrate the value of burned snags for wildlife.

Year Awarded: 2010

Project completion: 2010

Report number: 1

Expenditures: FY2010, \$7,400

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Mt. Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center and Community Volunteers



FS – Pacific Southwest Region
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