



Washington Native Plant Society

Appreciate, Conserve, and Study Our Native Flora

6310 NE 74th Street, Ste 215E, Seattle, Washington 98115
(206) 527-3210

Mr. Craig Calhoon, Manager
Special Lands Acquisition
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 47014
Olympia, WA 98504-7014

Dear Mr. Calhoon:

The Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) strongly supports the acquisition of the lands described by your Natural Areas Program Manager, Curt Pavola, in a letter dated June 14th. We hope DNR will make all of the proposed acquisitions a priority for funds from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. As more and more of Washington is lost to development and conversion, opportunities to purchase and protect high quality tracts are paramount. The range of community types in the Natural Areas where land acquisitions are proposed represents a good balance. The protection of natural areas near major metropolitan centers is important both for the enjoyment of the public and for environmental education efforts. Several of the proposed acquisitions will enhance protection of imperiled plant species such as golden paintbrush, or of birds and other animals which depend on certain plant community types such as shrub-steppe or salt-marsh, for foraging and breeding habitat.

Historically, many WNPS members have been interested in wetlands, and we support efforts to protect them. WNPS is giving special attention to the protection of high quality examples of shrub-steppe and of Garry oak woodlands. These community types are of great interest botanically; most of the lands formerly occupied by them have been converted, and the remnants are disappearing rapidly because they often occur on relatively level land that is suitable for agriculture or for development. Three of the proposed projects would protect examples of these community types.

We find it difficult to set priorities among the proposed projects. WNPS recommends that all of the projects proposed in your letter be fully funded. Should we be able to offer assistance in securing the proposed lands please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Fred Weinmann, President

Michael Marsh, Conservation Chair
Washington Native Plant Society

