

Bulletin of the

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY of OREGON

To increase the knowledge of members and public in identification and conservation of the native plants of the Pacific Northwest

Volume 18 No. 6

June 1985

----- MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS -----

Julie Kierstead and Angie Evenden will serve as co-editors of the Bulletin, beginning with the July issue. All copy is to be sent to Julie at 11505 SW Summerville, Portland, OR 97219 (same address as before). PLEASE HELP US OUT BY SUBMITTING YOUR NEWS AND ARTICLES ON TIME -- TO REACH US ON OR BEFORE THE 10TH OF THE MONTH.

CHAPTER NEWS

Blue Mountain

- 8 June, Sat. Field trip, SQUAW CREEK/POVERTY FLATS. Meet at BMCC greenhouse at 8:30 a.m.
- 8 June, Sat. Field trip, SQUAW CREEK/POVERTY FLATS. Meet at Blue Mountain Community College greenhouse at 8:30 a.m.
- 6-7 July, Sat. Field trip, DUCK LAKE (eastern Wallowas), led by Rachel Sines. Meet at post office in
& Sun. Richland, Oregon, at 11:00 a.m.
- 20 July, Sat. Field trip, TOWER MOUNTAIN, led by Karl Urban, Meet at BMCC greenhouse at 8:00 a.m.

Corvallis

To register for field trips please call Esther McEvoy (754-0893) or Dan Luoma (758-8063).

- 1 June, Sat. Field trip to RICKREALL RIDGE BOTANICAL AREA. Meet at parking lot, NE corner of Cordley Hall, 9 a.m. Led by Dan Luoma, 758-8063.
- 9 June, Sun. Field trip, WILDFLOWERS OF MARYS PEAK "ROCK GARDEN", led by Bob Frenkel. Meet at 10 a.m. in parking lot at NE corner of Crodley Hall. Bring lunch.
- 31 Aug., Sat. Field trip over Labor Day weekend (date tentative) to Steens Mt. with Northern Nevada Native Plant Society members; led by Carolyn Wright.

Emerald

10 June, Mon. Meeting, 7:15 p.m., Amazon Park Community Center, north craft building. Michael Williams of the Hardesty-June Wilderness Council will present a multi-media slide-tape show on the Hardesty Mountain - Mount June backcountry.

High Desert

--- For information about June activities, call Chapter President Marge Ettinger, 382-2255.

Mid Columbia

5 June, Wed. MEETING, 7:30 p.m., Mosier School.

North Coast

For information about June activities of the North Coast Chapter, contact Richard Smith, 842-4324.

Portland

Please call the trip leader or Doris Ashby, 245-2977, if there are any questions about a field trip. Bring lunch, liquids, and all-weather clothing for the trips.

- 1 June, Sat. Field Trip, BALD BUTTE. A hike of 3 miles will reward one with a variety of flowers and views of Mt. Hood and the Hood River Valley. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at K-Mart, NE 122nd and Sandy Blvd. (exit I-84 at 122nd north-bound), south end of parking lot. Leader: Esther Kennedy, 287-3091.
- 8 June, Sat. Field trip, BLACK WOLF MEADOWS in the Clackamas Ranger Dist1, Mt. Hood N.F. Meet at K-Mart SE 82nd, Milwaulkie Expressway, SW corner of parking lot, at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Ruth Hansen, 289-5832.
- 11 June, Tue. Meeting, 7:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson. Margie Willis, professor at Clark College, Vancouver, WA, will present a slide program on Audubon's NATURAL HISTORY TRIPS IN COSTA RICA.
- 15-16 June, Sat.&Sun. Field trip, COLUMBIA GORGE APPRECIATION WEEKEND, Friends of The Columbia Gorge.
Saturday - GRASSY KNOLL. Beautiful wildflowers are displayed on prominent rocky outcroppings. Hike about 6 mi. r.t. on this flower appreciation and identification hike. Meet 8:00 a.m. at south end of K-Mart parking lot (see June 1), or 9:00 a.m. at north end of Bridge of the Gods. Leader Jan Lindgren, 573-6918.
Sunday - LARCH MOUNTAIN to MULTNOMAH CREEK. This 8 mi. hike will begin and end at the top of Larch Mountain, we will lose and gain 1,200 ft. elevation. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the Dept. of Motor Vehicals (DMV), NE 60th and Glisan. Leader: Dave Doback, 643-2213.
- 22 June, Sat. Field trip, PUNCH BOWL on Hood River and PARKDALE LAVA BEDS. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at K-Mart (see June 1) for car pooling or meet leader, 9:30 a.m. in Hood River at the Fruit Tree. Leader: Don Barr, 246-2785.
- 29 June, Sat. Field trip, COAST RANGE, KIDDER BUTTE. George will take you where the flowers are. Meet at OMSI parking lot, 8:00 a.m. Leader: George Lewis, 292-0415.

Siskiyou

- 9 June, Sun. Field trip, UPPER SHALE CITY (roadside botanizing) and HOLLENBECK STUDY AREA (easy hiking). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Medford K-Mart, or 8:30 at the Ashland Bi-Mart. Led by Gordan Larum, 772-1685. Bring lunches and water.
- 13 June, Thur. Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 171, Science Building at Southern Oregon State College, Ashland. HISTORY OF HUMAN INTERACTION WITH PLANTS OF SW OREGON, by Jeff Lalande, Rogue River N.F. Historian. The talk and slide show will cover Indian uses of plants and will also include uses by Chinese and early settlers of SW Oregon.
- 15 June, Sat. Field trip, PROPOSED SODA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AREA, jointly with the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council. Easy to moderate walk on and near Pacific Crest Trail, with opportunities for strenuous side trips. Your help is needed in locating T&E species in this area. Meet at Medford K-Mart 8:00 a.m. or Ashland Bi-Mart 8:30. Bring lunch and water for all day. 50 miles roundtrip from Ashland. Led by Vern Crawford, 482-9196.
- 5 - 7 July, Fri.-Sun. Field trip, A CAR--CAMPING EXCURSION TO THE LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT AND THE MEDICINE LAKE COUNTRY OF THE MODOC NATIONAL FOREST. Our travels will take us through basin and range and lava upland country with an opportunity to get acquainted with plant communities not represented on our side of the Cascades. Highlights will include birdwatching at Tule Lake NWR, and visits to lava tubes, ice caves, obsidian flows, mountain peaks and a couple of beautiful lakes (and fishing?). This trip is suitable for both the laid-back campers and the real go-getters. Also, it is possible to join us for the first day only. To make all arrangements, Call Wayne Rolle, 482-0093 before June 28th.

Willamette Valley

- 2 June, Sun. Field trip, LITTLE SINK area. Carpool at S Salem K-Mart 8:00 a.m., or at the City Hall in Falls City at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Larry Scofield, 787-3833.
- 8 June, Sat. Field trip, MCKENZIE TRAIL. Carpool at S Salem K-Mart 7:30 a.m. Leader: Frances Schaefer, 393-7492.
- 15 June, Sat. Field trip. CASCADE FLOWERS. Carpool at the Gingerbread House in Mehama at 8:00 a.m. Leaders: George and Harriet Schoppert, 859-2613.
- 22 June, Sat. Field trip, TABLE MOUNTAIN & BLUE MOUNTAIN with Alan Curtis, BLM Biologist. Carpool S Salem K-Mart, 7:30 a.m. Contact: Clint Urey, 743-2802.
- 30 June, Sun. Field trip, SOCIALIST VALLEY. Carpool at S Salem K-Mart at 8:00 a.m. or at the City Hall at Falls City at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Larry Scofield, 787-3833.

Wm. Cusick

- A field trip schedule is being worked out, including trips to Marble Canyon near Baker, and to the proposed Indian Creek RNA in the Wallowas, as well as a loop drive around the Wallowas. For the latest details, contact Andrew Kratz at 963-9358.

WSA Field Trips

Contact trip leader or Barbara Fox (659-2445) to register for trips to BLM Wilderness Study Areas.

- 15 June, Sat. Field trip to SPRING BASIN. Rolling plateau lands above the John Day River near Clarno. Mini bus available from Bend and Madras to area. Trip leader: David Danley 593-1221 ext. 394.(Sunriver).
- 21-24 June, Fri-Mon Field trip to Guano Creek WSA. High rolling country south of Hart Mtn. Antelope Refuge. Trip leader: Rick Brown, 222-1146 (Portland).
- 4 July, wkd Field trips to the STEENS, MALHEUR AND BLITZEN RIVER AREA. Two or three trips are planned in this area. Depends on accessibility. Call Barbara Fox for details, 659-2445.
- 20&21 July Sat&Sun Field trip to STEENS to NORTHERN NEVADA. Large mountainous area between Steens and Nevada. Call Carolyn Wright for details, 753-5120 (Corvallis).

FLOWERS FOREVER

by Rhoda Love

Dear Fellow NPSOers,

At the end of next month (July 31, 1985), I will need to resign from my position as NPSO State Conservation Chair. My husband will be on sabbatical leave from the UO starting in September and in mid-August he and I will be leaving for a month-long trip to Australia. Then, early in 1986, our family will depart for Tübingen, West Germany, where we will live until approximately July 31, 1986.

The post of State Conservation Chair cannot be handled in a hit-or-miss fashion by someone who flits in and out of the country, therefore, I am writing to our President today, to ask that he find a replacement to whom I can turn over my files before I leave for Australia.

I would like to write 2 more Flowers Forever columns, for the July and August Bulletins, and then I hope our Editor will find a replacement columnist to carry on in my place.

This month, I would like to use some of my space to acknowledge a few of the many people and organizations who have greatly assisted the NPSO in its efforts to conserve Oregon's native flora. First, of course, come Julie Kierstead and Angie Evenden for publishing our superb monthly Bulletin; next, Esther McEvoy merits our gratitude and strong support for her hard work as Chair of our Legislative Committee; many thanks to Gaylee Goodrich for designing our lovely new notecards and to George Lewis for handling card distribution; Alan Curtis did a magnificent job as chairman of our Poster Committee and the resulting poster is superb; thanks to Leighton Ho and Evelyn Everett of Emerald Chapter for handling T-shirt manufacture and distribution and to the artists whose work appears on the shirts -- Julie, Gaylee, Nadine Smith and Linda Vorobik. (NPSO T-shirts are now being worn in many parts of the United States including Washington, D.C.!) Many thanks to Barbara Fox for coordinating our visits to BLM Desert Wilderness Study Areas. I'm very grateful to all you NPSOers who keep me informed about statewide conservation issues, and

especially to Mariana Bornholdt for her work with Friends of Walker Creek Wetlands and for her role as legislation-watcher, and to Veva Stansell for her work on preservation of Curry County beaches and estuaries; I also applaud the work of our Wildflower Show Committee, Mike Fahey, Dan Luoma and Mariana Bornholdt.

Two organizations with which we have worked closely deserve mention. The first is the Oregon Natural Resources Council. ONRC representatives Wendell Wood and Andy Kerr have been of enormous assistance to us. And in Washington, D. C., one of our best friends is the Natural Resources Defense Council, where Faith T. Campbell has lobbied for our interests at the Federal level.

Our NPSO state network is getting larger and stronger. I am very glad that our Blue Mountain Chapter is again active and I welcome our new North Coast Chapter. I hope that both groups will appoint a Conservation Chair to work with me and my successor.

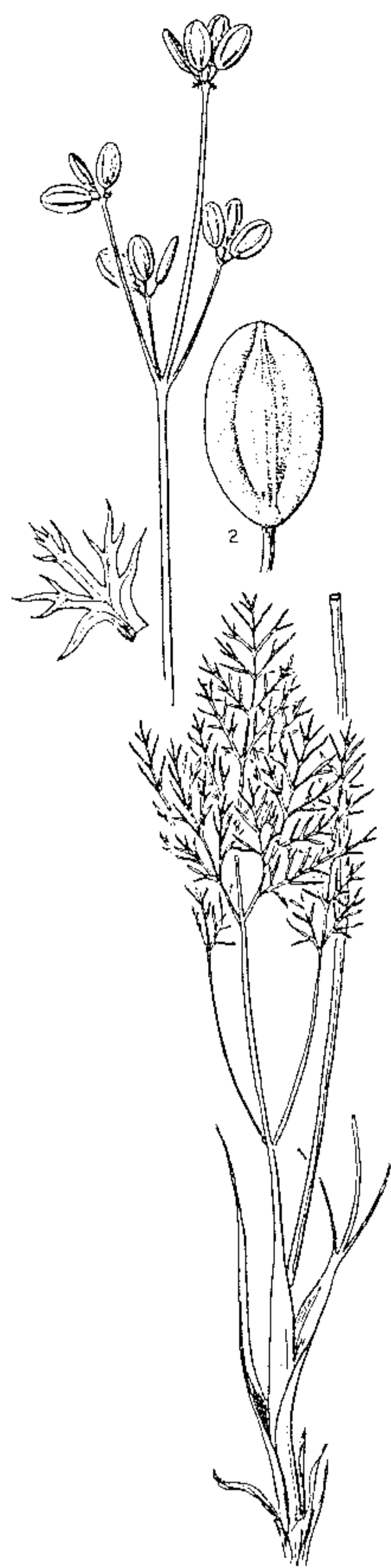
Here are a few of the issues that I think the NPSO should continue to support with letters and phone calls to the appropriate individuals:

1. Let's keep up our pressure on the state BLM to hire a full-time professional botanist at each of their eastern Oregon District Offices.

2. Let's keep writing to our legislators in Salem asking for state protection for our Oregon rare and endangered plants and animals.

3. And let's keep up pressure on our representatives in Washington D. C. for a stronger Federal Endangered Species Act with amendments which improve protection for plants.

GOOD NEWS FROM EUGENE FOR LOMATIUM
BRADSHAWII !!



Lomatium bradshawii

(Illustration from Hitchcock et al., *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*; used with permission from the publisher)

The good news from Eugene is that the Amazon Park population of Lomatium bradshawii may produce some seeds this year!

For years our local NPSO chapter has been trying to protect a population of Lomatium bradshawii (USF&W Category 1) in Amazon Park, Eugene. One year soil was dumped on half the population for a community garden! The following year, the plants were mowed at the peak of the blooming season!

This year, alerted by a phone call from Emerald Chapter member Fran Moravesik, I phoned the City Parks Department in early April and asked for protection for the plants. Fran and I were able to show the City's head groundsperson just where the plants grow and what they look like. The City responded positively with a promise that the area would not be mowed until after the Lomatium had a chance to set seed. The Register-Guard carried a front page story about the cooperative agreement between NPSO and the City with a nice colored photo of the Lomatium. So, Julie, if all goes well, this year you should be able to collect a few L. bradshawii seeds for the Seed Bank!

--Rhoda Love
Conservation Chair

WELCOME NEW OFFICERS

Retiring president, Herm Fritz, installed the following officers at the annual meeting in Ashland on May 11: President, Dr. Frank Lang; Vice-president, Susan Kofahl; Secretary, Florence Ebeling; Treasurer (second term), Marjorie Ettinger; new board members, Don Barr, Dan Luoma Carolyn Wright. Under the direction of these officers and the support of the membership we will enjoy a good year.

NEW CHAPTER FORMED

The William Cusick Chapter which is based in La Grande and will draw members from Wallowa, Union and Baker Counties has been formed in compliance with the by-laws. Welcome!

The Blue Mountain Chapter has been re-organized and reinstated.

WELCOME NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

Three NPSO chapters have recently elected new officers. The results are as follows. Welcome!

BLUE MOUNTAIN	Pres.	Bruce Barnes
	V.P.	Hilda Tilgner
	Sec/Treas.	Harry Oswald
WM. CUSICK (La Grande)	Pres.	Andrew Kratz
	V.P.	Sandra Roth
	Sec.	Norm Cimon
	Treas.	Barbara Hetrick
CORVALLIS	Pres.	Tammy Mauer
	V.P.	Dan Luoma
	Sec.	Joan Glascock
	Treas.	Gary Hunt

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

A Brief Summary of State Laws for Plants

American law for conserving endangered plants and animals is derived from the older English law. In old English law animals were the property of the King; whereas in the U.S. they are regarded as the property of the "people", the government having the responsibility to protect the animals for the people. Plants on the other hand, in both the English and American law are broadly considered the property of the landowner. States have a broad range of powers to conserve wild animals, yet their main power for plant conservation is the police power. Even though the legal authorities responsible for protecting plants and animals may be different, the legal measures designed for conservation of plants and animals can be the same.

Thirty-five states presently have plant conservation laws which vary in degrees of protection afforded to the native flora. Several states laws' dating from 1930's-1940's protect only plants near the highway. Washington, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Massachusetts and West Virginia all have roadside protection laws.

Massachusetts was one of the earliest states to pass a law in 1918. It reads "the mayflower (*Epigaea repens*) shall be the flower or floral emblem of the commonwealth. Any person who pulls up or digs up a plant of the mayflower or any part thereof, or injures such plant or any part thereof except in so far as is reasonably necessary in procuring the flower therefrom, within the limits of any state highway or any other public way or place, or upon the land of another person without written authority from him, shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty dollars; but if a person does any of the aforesaid acts while in disguise or secretly in the night time he shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars." Even though it seems absurd to catch a plant thief in the night, many parts of this law are in our modern day plant laws.

The Massachusetts law today is more current and gives the authority to the state agency to list and protect endangered plants, yet does not give any guidelines. The New Mexico, California, and Arizona laws all have regulations for the taking of desert plants. Arizona has a system similar to deer hunting control by game departments. One must have a tag for each cactus to be collected and pay a fee.

A tag is put on the plant till sold. The Arizona Department of Agriculture is in charge of this program and enforcement is by the police.

The laws for protection of desert plant species are specific to that type of ecosystem. Each state must set up its laws for the best protection for their endangered and threatened species. Colorado added a provision to its natural areas law for a cooperative agreement between the state and federal government for grants with limited authority to study and manage only federally listed plants. Maine and Kentucky also include provisions for listing of rare plants in their laws governing natural areas. New Jersey, South Carolina, and South Dakota all have laws protecting certain species, but no state department has the authority for determining species status, regulations or enforcement.

The above laws were all passed prior to 1970 and the U.S. Endangered Species Act (E.S.A.) of 1973. The laws that have been passed since 1973 have primarily been designed to compliment the E.S.A.. These laws are among the most powerful. They define distinct categories of species, such as endangered or threatened and have a listing process defined. The listing process differs considerably from state to state. Yet each law prohibits "taking", except under regulated conditions. Some states allow for taking of plants for scientific use or by special permit.

Many of the state laws include regulations such as: commercial taking only with tags or seals, exceptions for biological research, acquisition of land for protection of species, landowner awareness of species, and regulations of nursery stock.

Even though many states have the basis for a good law for plant protection, certain exceptions in their bills weaken the overall effectiveness. One problem is giving exceptions to utility companies. This type of exception appears in the laws of California, Florida, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Other exceptions include agriculture, forestry, land clearing, fire control, and accidental taking. In total 19 states have exceptions written into their laws.

The penalties for violating the laws vary considerably. New York the maximum is \$25, in Rhode Island \$5,000. If the fine is higher and the enforcement taken seriously, there is a better chance for protection of listed species.

In spite of the number of flaws found in many of these bills it is possible to amend and to update bills. The incentive of the 4 to 1 matching of funds offered by the U.S.F.W. under the amendments of the Endangered Species Act will encourage states to fashion their bills after the E.S.A.

The above article is condensed from a longer article: McMahan, Linda. What is protection? The Tennessee Conservationist, Vol. L, March/April 1984, No. 2, p. 5-7.

The notes from the April 13 Legislative Committee Meeting are ready. If you would like a copy contact me.

Esther Gruber McEvoy
Corvallis Chapter

DESERT CONFERENCE VII: JUNE 6, 7 & 8

The 7th annual Desert Conference will be held at Central Oregon Community College in Bend. Field trips on Fri & Sat. will visit local wilderness study areas. An all-day Friday tour will examine rangeland management practices in central Oregon, including a visit to Pat and Connie Hatfield's High Desert Ranch and riparian areas on BLM's Prineville District. Saturday panel discussions will focus on different perspectives on management and use of rangeland resources. Natural history presentations are also planned. Sunday will be devoted to wilderness proposals, and conservation strategy. Registration is \$10.00. To obtain a registration form and more information contact Don Tryon, P.O. Box 450, John Day, OR 97845. (575-2671).

' ROOTS OF LIFE '

The excellent slide-tape program, 'Roots of Life', shown at the annual meeting in Ashland is available from the World Wildlife Fund. A copy of the program may be obtained (borrowed) from Jane MacKnight, World Wildlife Fund, 1601 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. (202-387-0800). Enclose \$3.00 to cover the cost of mailing.

BLM OREGON WILDERNESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AVAILABLE

Some 950,000 acres of BLM-administered land in 41 areas, mostly in southeastern Oregon, would be recommended suitable for designation as wilderness in a BLM proposal covered in a draft environmental impact statement published April 30.

The proposed action is one of seven alternatives studied in the draft. The alternatives range from recommending that all 2,304,142 acres studied be suitable for designation as wilderness, to asking that no acreage be set aside for wilderness.

BLM will receive public comments on the draft until August 31. Thirteen Oregon hearings are scheduled in June and July to solicit public opinion. A one-hour informal discussion session will precede each of the hearings.

The public hearings schedule is as follows. All hearings are 7 p.m. to 10 p.m..

- June 18 Oregon Room, Medford BLM District Office
- June 19 Curry County Fairgrounds, Gold Beach
- June 20 Public Meeting Room, Klamath County Library, 126 S. Third, Klamath Falls
- June 26 Lakeview BLM District Office
- June 27 Harney County Museum Clubroom, Burns
- July 9 The Riverhouse, North Hwy. 97, Bend
- July 10 Courtroom Gilliam County Courthouse, Condon
- July 11 So. Sherman Elementary School, Grass Valley
- July 16 Weese Bldg., Rm W-10, Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario
- July 17 Copper Kitchen Meeting Room, 480 Campbell (just off I-80), Baker
- July 18 Hoke Hall, Rm. 201, Eastern Oregon State College, La Grande
- July 23 Hearing Room Auditorium 2nd floor, Portland Bldg., 1120 SW 5th Ave., Portland
Also afternoon session, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- July 25 City Council Chambers, 777 Pearl St., Eugene
- July 30 Utah Rm, Holiday Inn, 1000 E. 6th, Reno, NV.

Copies of the draft environmental impact statement are available for review in BLM's Oregon-Washington State Office, 825 NE Multnomah St., Portland, and in Oregon District Offices. A few copies are available from Team Leader Jerry MaGee (OSO 935), BLM, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208. (503-231-6256). Written comments on the draft statement should be sent to: Wilderness Studies (935), BLM, P.O. Box 2965, 97208.

A CHILLING TALE OF TWO STREAMS

BY DAN GUTHRIE

If ice is nature's dynamite, and cold her powder monkey, might winter end with a bang?

This is a tale of two streams.

Meadow Creek arises high in the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon. In cold years the shallow tributary of the Grande Ronde River freezes over not once but twice, with spectacular breakups occurring in December and again in May. Researchers from the U.S. Forest Service Range and Wildlife Habitat Laboratory at La Grande used a time-lapse camera to record one such breakup during the 1980-81 winter. Their film shows blocks of ice congealing as a white spell becalms the creek. In an instant the wintry sleep explodes, and dark water bearing engines of destruction rushes downstream, scouring banks along the way.

"Meadow Creek's banks are damaged even more by the surge of water than by the ice," said Larry Bryant, a wildlife biologist for the Forest Service lab. He had just finished showing me the film last August and was prepping me for a tour of the site.

"Too many biologists see streams only in the summer. They don't visualize what happens in winter," he cautioned.

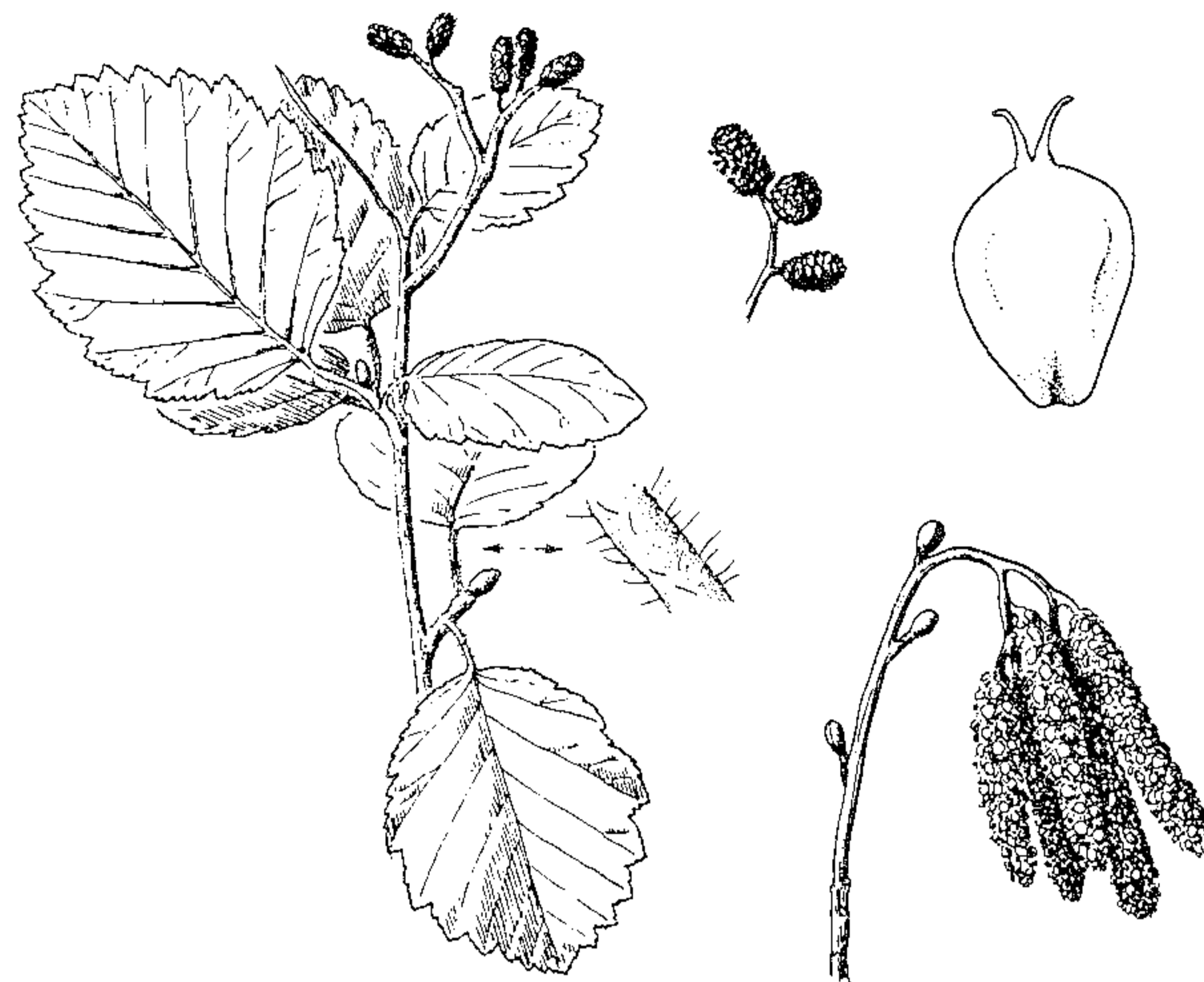
Bryant and others have been studying the impact of moderate grazing on Meadow Creek and its floodplain for the past 10 years. All their data are not in yet, but according to the lab's project leader, Jack Ward Thomas, "They're finding lots of things that everybody knows are true that aren't."

During the ride up Meadow Creek, Bryant pointed out a stand of ponderosa pines growing 40 yards back from the bank. Many of the trunks bore "catfaces," scars usually attributed to bear claws or fire.

"Ice did that," he said.

At the study area, where land bordering four miles of the creek has been fenced and cross-fenced for grazing experiments, he produced photographs taken yearly from the same points. They showed scanty clumps of mountain alders (*Alnus incana*) slowly adding shoots. There was little sprouting of new trees along the creek, not even in an ungrazed section.

"In 1975 we planted 5,350 whips of willows (*Salix* sp.), black cottonwoods (*Populus trichocarpa*), and red osier dogwoods (*Cornus stolonifera*) along the creek. By 1973 there were 13 willows, three cottonwoods and one red osier dogwood left," he said, and pointed the finger of blame in three directions: wildlife ate them, ice uprooted them, and low summer flows dried them out.



Alnus incana

We walked along the creek. Its floodplain was dry but still grassy. Cattle are allowed to crop no more than 70 percent of the annual growth, and that, said Bryant, has tripled grass production since the project began, when intensive grazing was terminated.

We stopped to examine a clump of mountain alders debarked to a height of six feet.

"Looks like something was chewing on the trunks, doesn't it? Ice did that. Plates of ice stacked up against the alders, which caused water to flow around them and erode the bank. Sometimes riparian vegetation actually promotes erosion," he said.

"We've found that ice and high water, not cattle, cause most of the damage to Meadow Creek. If that's the case, why waste money building fences to protect streams like this one? Instead, we should be working to convince ranchers of the benefits of moderately grazing the riparian zone. You've seen some of the evidence. What do you think?" he asked.

* * * * *

Camp Creek is a tributary of the Middle Fork of the John Day River. Like Meadow Creek, it arises in the Blue Mountains near the 5,000-foot level. Like Meadow Creek, sections have been fenced for 10 years or more and their progress followed in the presence or absence of cattle. Like Meadow Creek, its flow registers extremes, going from two cubic feet per second in August to 250 at the peak of snowmelt.

But Camp Creek looks different, especially along the mile fenced for the past 14 years. There, in what is called "the old enclosure," the stream has narrowed and deepened; lush growths of mountain alders line its shores; and the once-dusty floodplain is marshy and shot with springs.

Please turn to page 70

Wm. CUSICK CHAPTER, NPSO

Another NPSO chapter has been formed this year! The Wm. Cusick Chapter, based in La Grande, has drawn its membership from Union, Baker, and Wallowa counties. Currently, the chapter has about 15 members, but it is expected to grow soon to 20-25. Most of our members are new to the Society.

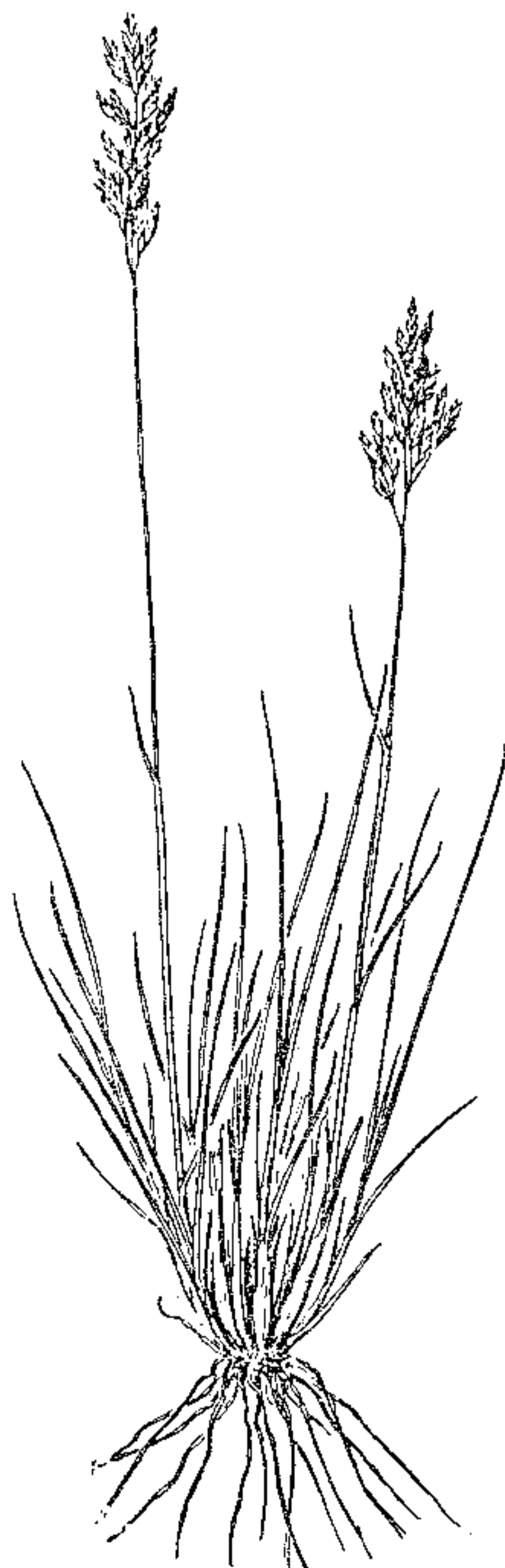
William Conklin Cusick - who was he? He was the eldest of five children of Scottish-Irish descent, who in 1853 at age eleven drove an ox-team most of the way from Illinois along the Oregon Trail to the Willamette Valley, where the Cusick family settled near Kingston.

William attended an academy, taught school, volunteered with the Union Army, and then returned to teaching until his hearing began to fail while he was in his mid-twenties. He tried market gardening.

In the fall of 1872, at age 30, William joined his brother in eastern Oregon where they settled on Cusick Creek in Thief Valley, Union County. Their ranch, located between the Blue and Wallowa Mountains, lay in the midst of an area that, botanically speaking, was virtually unexplored. Though his earliest collections were made about 1865, it was from this ranch that William Cusick really began his botanical career in 1873.

Cusick collected and pressed plant specimens which he sold. Those he had difficulty in identifying, he sent to Asa Gray or Charles Piper. Cusick's collection numbers went up to nearly 5000. He discovered dozens of species new to science, nearly forty of which were named after him.

For more than 40 years, Wm. Cusick made extensive botanical collecting trips, especially through the Blue and Wallowa Mountains, but also to Steens Mtn, Oregon's desert, Crater Lake, the Siskiyou, and the upper Willamette and Rogue Rivers. Nearly all of his collections were confined to Oregon, but he also made collecting trips to the Santa Rosa Mtns of Nevada, and the Seven Devils of Idaho.



Poa cusickii

(reproduced from Hitchcock et al., *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*, with permission from the publisher)

His health was often poor, but it seems that nothing could keep him from botany for long. He would head into the rugged peaks of the Wallawas alone, with his camping gear and plant presses loaded on a pony. Or, taking a horse team and wagon, he would head out into the desert to the south. Often his trips would last several weeks. He never carried a gun for protection, reasoning that the animals would leave him alone if he didn't bother them. Nor did he take fishing gear, for his dedication to botanical exploration left him no time to waste on fishing.

Cusick's last extensive trip was at the age of 60, when accompanied by his nephew R. G. Cusick he covered central Oregon, then the Southwestern region down to California, and finally returned via Crater Lake to the ranch.

In 1913, at age 71, he sold his personal herbarium to OSU and spent most of that winter in Eugene working over the specimens. But the next year, he missed his collection so much that he started a new one. By now he was quite deaf, and nearly blind due to cataracts (though surgery had restored partial vision in one eye). Yet he was busy making collections and sending off new specimens to Dr. Charles Piper for identification. In fact, he made 638 collections that year while living temporarily in the Old Soldiers Home in Roseburg.

Cusick continued to collect through 1916 when his last Aster collections were made near Union, where he then lived in town with his brother. By 1921, when Harold St. John visited Cusick in Union, his "second herbarium" contained about 3600 sheets. But by then Cusick had had a stroke and his eyesight had failed. He was no longer able to work on his specimens, so sold them to WSU.

Wm. Cusick died at his brother's home in Union in 1922, at age 80. Yet his name lives on as part of Oregon's history, geography, and botany. Many of Oregon's plants bear his name. At the headwaters of the Imnaha River in the Wallawas, stands Cusick Mountain. Now, in northeastern Oregon, a group of people calls itself the Wm. Cusick Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon.

In naming our chapter after Wm. Cusick, we are paying tribute to a person who was truly an Oregon botanist. Though he had no formal education in botany (he was self-taught), his name became known to some of the best botanists half way around the world. William Cusick dedicated himself to the furtherance of botanical knowledge of Oregon. He was so devoted to Oregon's botanical exploration that even as an old man, when deaf and nearly blind, he continued to pursue his passion. That's dedication. Perhaps in having an NPSO chapter named after him, we will be reminded of that dedication and the valuable contributions that were still made by a self-taught, deaf, nearly blind old man. Perhaps too, something of Wm. Cusick's spirit will live on in each of us.

Andrew Kratz
President
Wm. Cusick Chapter

Camp Creek differs also in its fish populations. By 1976 the number of steelhead redds in the old enclosure had grown from 14 to 30 per mile. A cost-benefit analysis of the increase determined that, over 20 years, the extra steelhead were worth \$9,250 annually, after the expense of building and maintaining fences had been subtracted.

"I snowshoed in here every week during the 1979-80 winter," said Errol Claire as he jockeyed a pickup toward Camp Creek during the Christmas holidays. Claire is the regional fishery biologist for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's John Day Office.

"That was the winter when temperatures dropped to 35 degrees below zero and stayed there. I wanted to compare what was happening in the old enclosure with the situation downstream where grazing was still allowed. The ice was half as thick and disappeared 45 days sooner in the old enclosure."

What about ice damage?"

"In the old enclosure? None," said Claire.

At Camp Creek we hiked through knee-deep snow to inspect a section protected from cattle since 1979. Mountain alders were staging a comeback but mostly the shores remained bare and the creek broad. Ice jutted out from its banks, in places forming a cover thick enough to walk on.

In the old enclosure just upstream was a different story. We saw no ice, only water running dark and deep between the alders. One explanation for the absence of ice, said Claire, were the springs feeding the creek: they warm it in winter and cool it in summer. In turn, roots of riparian plants create conduits so that floods raise the water table, producing still more springs. He suspected the alders of some wizardry in all this but would not elaborate.

We found one of the famous springs Watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquatica*) was growing in its 47-degree water. Claire placed a twig among the watercress and it disappeared beneath the snow in the direction of Camp Creek, where falling flakes had mantled the alders, turning their branches to wands.

"It may take a decade or more for protected streams to heal after generations of abuse," said Claire. "But they will recover if given time. You've seen both kinds. Which do you prefer?"

Dan Guthrie writes on fish and wildlife issues of the Columbia Basin for Oregon State University's Extension/Sea Grant Program.

LAWRENCE MEMORIAL GRASSLAND - NATURE CONSERVANCY

Seven Mid-Columbia Chapter members visited the Lawrence Memorial Grasslands on Sunday May 5th. We covered about 20 to 30 acres in the southeast corner of this Nature Conservancy preserve of 400 acres located near Shaniko. We were able to identify over 60 plants on the reference list provided to us, courtesy of Tammy Maurer. It was a beautiful sunny day for observing distant mountains as well as experiencing this rare native grassland habitat. The dominant bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue provided a lovely background for the many Lomatiums, Eriogonums, and Phlox. Also prevalent were Phoenicaulis cheiranthoides, Hydrophyllum capitatum, and Balsamorhiza serrata. Geum triflorum was another special treat observed. Squaw currant (Ribes cereum) in peak bloom attracted many bees. We also enjoyed seeing a horned toad, many horned larks, vesper sparrows, white-crowned sparrows, chukars, and meadowlarks. The Camas, Lupinus spp. and Allium spp. were just beginning to bloom and we found some lavender violets, presumed Viola adunca, in a moist area. Having spent 4 hours in this unique land, we left with a feeling of deep appreciation to The Nature Conservancy for preserving this special area and encourage other members to investigate it for themselves.

Susan Kofahl, Mid-Columbia Chapter

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