



## Deschutes National Forest Botany Program Accomplishments 2007



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### Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plants

#### Several FY07 Accomplishments:

- Received regional funding to initiate monitoring potential effects from grazing on pumice grape fern (*Botrychium pumicola*) in partnership with the Berry Botanic Garden.
- Continued monitoring effects of mowing fuel treatments on green-tinged paintbrush (*Castilleja chlorotica*).
- Blocked an entry point into the Three Sisters Wilderness to prevent illegal tree collection in Newberry gentian (*Gentiana newberryi*) habitat.
- Initiated monitoring potential effects of grazing on Peck's penstemon (*Penstemon peckii*).
- Collected buried seed packets as part of a long-term study (since 1992) of Peck's penstemon seed viability and sent to Berry Botanic Garden for germination testing.

**Interesting Fact:** Expanded the ranges of Newberry's gentian and Peck's penstemon – found 3,000 gentians in 2 new populations & 9,000 penstemons in 1 new population.

**FY 2008 Goal:** Continue pumice grape fern grazing monitoring.



Andrea Raven (Berry Botanic Garden) installing plots to monitor effects of grazing on pumice grape fern, summer 2007.



Pumice grape fern (*Botrychium pumicola*)

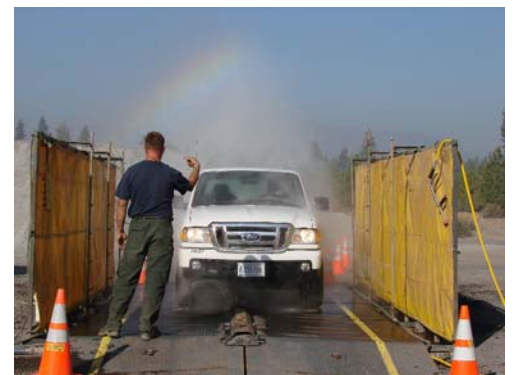
### Invasive Plants

#### Several FY07 Accomplishments:

- Manually treated 100's of acres with FS employees, Youth Conservation Corp, Northwest Youth Corps, AmeriCorps, inmates and volunteers.
- Monitored ribbongrass treatments as part of a collaborative partnership to test different control methods for ribbongrass along the Metolius River. Treatments occurred on private land. Partners include the private landowner, Friends of the Metolius, Jefferson County, and Oregon Dept. of Agriculture. Treatments included herbicides, solarization, and manual digging of plants.
- A contractor was employed to wash vehicles for weed prevention for the GW fire on Sisters District. Once washed, vehicles received a certificate to display on the windshield.

**Interesting Facts:** Yellow flag iris, native to Europe, has escaped cultivation and moved into the Deschutes River, altering critical habitat components for native fish (juvenile hiding cover & egg deposition areas). Deschutes County hopes to contain yellow flag iris above Lake Billy Chinook before it gets into the lower Deschutes & Columbia Rivers.

**FY 2008 Goal:** Implement the new Invasive Plant EIS & be able to finally employ an Early Detection/Rapid Response Strategy.



Contractors washing Forest Service vehicle during the GW fire, Sisters District, 2007.

## Unique Habitats & Species; Partnerships

### Several FY07 Accomplishments:

- Worked to restore damaged areas within the Metolius RNA due to illegal trespass by conepickers.
- Provided botanical expertise to the Regional Fungus Working Group and participated as bryophyte effects analyst/writer for USFS-BLM Supplements to the 2004 Final Supplemental EIS to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines (*Rick Dewey*).
- Updated the Region 6 Fungi Annotated Bibliography.
- **FY07 Partners:** Friends of the Metolius, Jefferson Co., Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Berry Botanic Garden, Oregon Wild, Warm Springs Forest Products Industries, Sierra Club, East Cascades Bird Conservancy, Native Plant Society, Lucky Peak & Coeur d'Alene federal nurseries, Central Oregon Community College.

**Interesting Fact:** Botanical surveys have documented more than a dozen fens that contain a suite of mosses typical of certain Canadian fens. Several unique moss species were recently discovered.

**FY 2008 Goal:** Establish an RNA Team to improve our management of these special areas.



Cone collectors damaged portions of the Metolius RNA. FS employees spent a day trying to repair damaged areas.

## Native Plant Habitat Enhancement/Revegetation

### Several FY07 Highlights:

- Collected 32+ lbs. of native seed that will be increased and used in future revegetation projects. Our FY07 funding provided us the opportunity to collect high elevation species (see bullet, below, about field testing these species), as well as a legume (big deervetch, *Lotus crassifolius*) that has potential in road revegetation projects.
- Through the Region 6 Grass & Forb Seed Production Contract, we received 316 lbs. of tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) seed for restoration projects in Big Marsh, and contracted for production of 250 lbs. of Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) and 50 lbs. of bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*) – key “workhorse” species in our revegetation projects.
- Obligated funding to Forest Service Coeur d'Alene Nursery to field test propagation of high elevation grass, rush, sedge and forb species (*Achillea millefolium*, *Achnatherum occidentale*, *Carex breweri*, *Eriophyllum lanatum*, *Festuca viridula*, *Juncus drummondii*). Future high elevation projects include ski slopes, trails, etc.

**Interesting Fact:** Revegetation of the Sunriver Interchange Project (Highway 97) is completed and involved a unique partnership between the Forest Service & Western Federal Highways. Native grass & forb seeds, collected several years ago and propagated through the R6 Native Grass and Forb Seed Propagation Contract, were used in this project. Compost (made on site by chipping harvested trees and shrub), fertilizer, & wood mulch were used in different combinations throughout the project.

**FY 2008 Goal:** Host a Regional Revegetation Training to learn techniques in the new Roadside Revegetation Manual written for Western Federal Highways by our Regional Revegetation Team. The techniques can be applied to all types of disturbed habitats.



Collecting high elevation bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*) for future revegetation projects, Bend/Ft. Rock District, August, 2007.



Sulphur-flowered buckwheat in cultivation at FS Lucky Peak Nursery, 2007.