

BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES

District: Barlow

Project: Juncrock Timber Sale

Prepared by: Lance Holmberg

Date: March 17, 2003

Step 1. PRE-FIELD REVIEW OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

The following sources were consulted: Region Six Forester's Sensitive Plant List (May 13, 1999), Mt. Hood Sensitive Plant Data Base, Oregon Natural Heritage Data Base, Interagency Species Management Data Base, aerial photos, and U.S.G.S. topographic maps.

Table 1: Summary of pre-field review and survey results

Species	Life Form	On District	Habitat Present	Habitat	Survey	Found
<i>Agoseris elata</i>	Forb	Documented	NO	Moist meadows	NO	
<i>Arabis sparsiflora var artorubens</i>	Forb	Documented	NO	Dry shrub oak areas	NO	
<i>Astragalus tyghensis</i>	Forb	Suspected	NO	Biscuit scab lands	NO	
<i>Botrychium minganense</i>	Fern	Documented	YES	Cedar seeps	YES	NO
<i>Botrychium montanum</i>	Fern	Documented	YES	Cedar seeps	YES	NO
<i>Botrychium pinnatum</i>	Fern	Documented	YES	Cedar seeps	YES	NO
<i>Castilleja thompsonii</i>	Forb	Documented	NO	Dry rocky peaks	NO	
<i>Lomatium watsonii</i>	Forb	Suspected	NO	Dry ridges	NO	
<i>Lycopodium complanatum</i>	Fern	Suspected	NO	Old burns	YES	NO
<i>Ranunculus reconditus</i>	Forb	Suspected	NO	Dry rocky ridges	NO	

A level "A" survey was conducted (aerial photo interpretation and review of existing records) was conducted.

No sensitive plants were documented in the planning area. Potential habitat is present for 3 species, *Botrychium minganense*, *Botrychium montanum* and *Botrychium pinnatum*.

Step 2. FIELD CLEARENCES AND SURVEYS

A field reconnaissance was conducted for sensitive plant species and their habitats known to occur, or suspected to occur within all project areas affected by project activities.

A level "B" survey was conducted. (Level A plus site-specific surveys conducted at during the season when plants or suitable habitat for sensitive plants can be identified.) Numerous other visits to all the units were made surveying for other species and conducting other work as part of the planning effort. All of these other visits constitute additional surveys for sensitive plants. Surveys were conducted to protocol.

Results: No sensitive plants were located. Potential habitat was located for 3 species, *B. minganense*, *B. montanum* & *B. pinnatum*.

Dates surveyed: Multiple visits in the field seasons 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001.

Project surveyed by Lance Holmberg, District Botanist

Approximate number of days of fieldwork conducted: 40 days

Step 3. Determination of effects

Determination of risks to populations of sensitive plants takes into consideration the size, density, vigor, habitat requirements, location of the population, and the consequence of and adverse effect on the species as a whole within its range and within the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Current condition: *B. minganense*, *B. montanum*, & *B. pinnatum* are rare to uncommon grape ferns that are mostly restricted to cedar seep areas. They have been found 3 miles from the project area but not within the project area. While they may occur in the project area it is unlikely that they are present. Project activities are not proposed for the specific areas where there is suitable habitat and will not affect the species or habitat for these species directly or indirectly.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS OF EFFECTS

Species	Alt. 1 (No action)	Alt. 2	Alt. 3	Alt. 4
<i>Botrychium minganense</i>	NI	NI	NI	NI
<i>Botrychium montanum</i>	NI	NI	NI	NI
<i>Botrychium pinnatum</i>	NI	NI	NI	NI

Prepared by: Lance Holmberg, Barlow District Botanist

____/s/ Lance G. Holmberg_____ Date:____3/25/03_____

NI= No Impact

MIIH= May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend towards Federal listing or loss of viability to the population or species.

WIFV*= Will Impact Individuals or habitat with a consequence that the action may contribute to a trend towards Federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species.

BI= Beneficial Impact

*Trigger for a significant action as defined by NEPA