

WELCOME TO THE SHASTA-MCCLLOUD NATIVE PLANT INTERPRETIVE GARDEN!

This garden, greenhouse and nursery are all part of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest's restoration program. Work started in 1993 with a grant from the McConnell Foundation to build a greenhouse for growing plants to restore Panther Meadows on Mt Shasta. The native plant display garden you are about to explore was begun in 2006. The Panther Meadows project and many others that followed were developed in cooperation with local tribes, the Youth Conservation Corps and community volunteers. We are grateful for their support.



LET THE SUN SHINE IN!

Most flowering plants need plenty of sun to grow and reproduce. Because plants need sunlight to make food, the understory of a dark, closed-canopy conifer forest is a difficult place to survive. Plants of dark forests must find other sources of nutrition, often partnering with fungi that penetrate tree roots.

In the Cascade and Klamath Mountains of Northern California, some of our most wildflower-rich native plant communities are declining because abundant sunlight no longer reaches the forest floor. A century of fire suppression has allowed conifer tree seedlings to survive and shade out sun-loving plants. Reducing the density of trees in the forest and creating openings can restore wildflowers and sun-loving woody plants to their rightful place in our native landscapes.

This garden highlights the beauty, diversity, and value -- to humans and other species -- of aspen groves, black oak woodlands, wet and dry mountain meadows and rocky serpentine plant communities.

Thinking about the natural consequences of diminishing sunlight in the forest is a new concept for many people. We encourage you to learn more. One good place to start is the Forest Service Celebrating Wildflowers website at www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/.



Shasta-Trinity National Forest

