



College of the Environment
School of Environmental and Forest Sciences



Volunteer Position Description

The Washington Rare Plant Care and Conservation Program is dedicated to conserving Washington's native rare plants through methods including ex situ conservation, rare plant monitoring, research, reintroduction, and education.

Position Title: Rare Plant Monitor

Location: Statewide

Report to: Wendy Gibble, Program Manager
Jennifer Youngman, Program Coordinator

Summary of Position: The Washington Rare Plant Care and Conservation Program (Rare Care) partners with the Washington Natural Heritage Program to update inventories on rare plant populations around the state. Rare plant monitors assist by visiting known populations of rare plants and collecting data on the population and reporting on any threats observed during the site visit. In many cases, these populations have not been visited in a decade or more, so the information gathered by rare plant monitors is vital for protecting the rich botanical biodiversity of Washington State.

Benefits: Observe wild populations of some of the rarest plants in Washington and learn about the ecosystems they rely on. Deepen your commitment to conservation of biodiversity and at the same time visit some of the state's premier native ecosystems.

Essential Responsibilities:

- Attend a required 1-day orientation and training session in the spring.
- Survey, document and report on rare plant population at one or more sites selected by the volunteer from a list of monitoring priorities maintained by Rare Care.
- Conduct preparatory research to determine how to access the site of the rare plant population, when the best time is to monitor the population, and the key diagnostic features of the target species.
- Conduct the site visit to the rare plant population and arrange for your own transportation to the site.
- Submit a completed field data sheet for each monitoring assignment within a month after the site visit is completed. Submit quarterly time sheets.
- Complete at least one monitoring assignment annually. One assignment may require multiple site visits.

(over, please)

Qualifications:

- A commitment to plant conservation and stewardship.
- Ability to identify native plants in the wild and to distinguish rare plants from other co-occurring species. Additional, formal training in plant identification is a plus, but not required.
- Ability to work independently with little supervision in the outdoors in varying weather conditions.
- Ability to hike 1 to 5 miles over uneven terrain and possibly off-trails.
- Your own transportation.
- Good observation skills and an attention to detail.
- Ability to collect scientific data and organize it for efficient reporting to Rare Care and our partnering agencies.
- Good navigation skills are a plus, and additional training is available through Rare Care.
- A willingness to follow and abide by some basic ground rules intended to protect rare plant populations and foster good communication with our agency partners.
- Reliability, commitment and promptness in filing reports.

Expectations:

- Represent Rare Care and conduct work in a professional manner.
- Keep all information on the exact location of rare plant populations confidential.
- Minimize your impacts to rare plant populations by removing seeds and plant materials from your clothing and shoes prior to every site visit.

Time Commitment:

- Attendance at an all-day training session.
- Complete at least two monitoring assignments over two years. Each assignment may require two site visits.

Contact: Wendy Gible, Rare Care Program Manager, at Washington Rare Plant Care and Conservation, University of Washington, Box 354115, Seattle WA 98195; 206-616-0780; or rarecare@uw.edu.

More information about the Rare Care program can be found online at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/rarecare/index.shtml>.