

Center
for
Biological
Diversity



California
Native
Plant
Society



Native Plant Conservation Campaign

First Year Report

January 8, 2003

After one year in existence, the NPCC has accomplished a great deal. We have established a new national coalition of native plant conservation groups. The NPCC is recognized by agencies, elected officials, the botanical community and the conservation community as a leading organization in native plant science and conservation advocacy.

NPCC Infrastructure

- ☞ 25 *affiliate* native plant conservation organizations in 25 states, representing more than 55,000 native plant conservation advocates (see p. 3)
- ☞ 13 *cooperating* scientific and environmental organizations (see p. 3)
- ☞ a *Science and Policy Advisory Committee*: includes Dr. Tom Dudley, Dr. Jayne Belnap, Dr. Maile Neel, and Dr. Ann Dennis
- ☞ *Web site* – www.cnps.org/NPCC, with pages on
 - NPCC affiliates, cooperators, and publications
 - international plant conservation
 - conservation science and law, including digests of ESA case law
 - conservation economics
 - staffing and funding for botany
 - equal protection for plants
 - important plant areas
- ☞ *Publications*
 - NPCC Special Report No. 1: *Barriers to Native Plant Conservation in U.S.: funding, staffing, law* details underfunding and understaffing of botany programs in U.S. Forest Service, BLM, and lesser protection for plants in Fish and Wildlife Service listing and recovery programs.
 - It has been distributed to native plant societies, press, agencies, large conservation groups
 - summaries have been published in *BioScience*, *Endangered Species Coalition Newsletter*, and elsewhere.
 - White Paper: *Economy vs. Environment: Fact or Fiction?* is a review of key research in the emerging field of ecological economics. The paper rebuts the theory that environmental protection harms economies. The paper also reviews ecological and economic literature on the values of wildland ecosystem services.
 - It is posted on the web site but has not yet been distributed
 - Brochure: *Wild Plants, Wild Places* outlines need for and barriers to plant conservation for lay audiences.
 - approximately 4,000 copies have been distributed nationwide through botanical gardens, at conventions, and through other organizations.

Promoting appreciation and conservation of native plant species and communities through collaboration, education, law, policy, land use and management.

Projects, 2002-3

- ⌘ *Increasing staffing and funding for plant conservation and science:* This continues NPCC's advocacy for adequate numbers of qualified botanists and other resource specialists in the BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies as a prerequisite to sound land management. The NPCC allows 55,000 people nationwide to speak on these issues, rather than many small groups speaking separately. NPCC publications and presentations have emphasized staffing. NPCC submitted testimony to Congress including a budget proposal for BLM and U.S. Forest Service botany programs. We will continue to work with large wilderness and wildlife conservation organizations, agencies, and elected officials on this issue.
- ⌘ *Issue advocacy:* NPCC will continue to respond to threats to laws and regulations that protect plants and biological diversity. NPCC works with affiliates and cooperators to raise awareness of the impacts of policies to plants, and encourage advocacy supporting key laws and regulations. Priorities include laws and regulations which protect imperiled species and habitats, and those which promote public and scientific input into land and resource management.
- ⌘ *Science Advocacy:* This 2003 project involves gathering data on decreases in federal funding for plant science and the loss of opportunities for botany training in universities. The goal is to document the decline in numbers of trained botanists and other natural resource scientists, describe its consequences, and increase its profile as an issue for the environmental community.
- ⌘ *Botanical Data Collection.* NPCC proposes to work with affiliate states to collect data on the status, range, taxonomy and trends of their floras into a single online database, following the model of the Calflora Database. Implementation will depend on availability of funds.
- ⌘ *Regional Support.* NPCC proposes to place support staff in key U.S. regions to provide technical and administrative support to affiliate plant conservation groups. Implementation will depend on funding.
- ⌘ *Outreach:* I have given presentations on the values of native plants, the problems with underfunding and understaffing, and on conservation economics to numerous groups including the Plant Conservation Alliance, the Endangered Species Coalition, other conservation groups and gatherings of agency botanists. NPCC articles on these topics have been published in newsletters and journals.
 - More presentations and placement of articles in journals such as American Journal of Botany and Conservation Biology and newsletters of organizations such as Audubon, Defenders of Wildlife, and Union of Concerned Scientists are high priorities for 2003.
 - The web page will be a useful outreach tool. Future pages will feature action alerts on regional and national plant conservation issues and another listing books, posters and other products for sale by the various affiliate groups in order to bring more members and more funding to the native plant community.
- ⌘ *Building the NPCC:* recruiting new affiliate native plant conservation organizations. The goal is to represent 35 states by 6/2003.
- ⌘ *International Collaboration:* continue to follow up on work to promote adoption of global plant conservation strategy by Convention on Biological Diversity

NPCC Affiliates

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
California Native Plant society
Center for Biological Diversity
Colorado Native Plant Society
Florida Native Plant Society
Herb Society of America
Iowa Native Plant Society
Kauai Native Plants Society
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Maryland Native Plant Society
Missouri Native Plant Society
Montana Native Plant Society
New England Wild Flower Society (6 states)
New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council
North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society
North Carolina Botanical Garden
Native Plant Society of New Mexico
Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio
Oregon NPS
South Carolina Native Plants Society
Ticonderoga Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, VA
Utah Native Plant Society
Virginia Native Plant Society
Washington Native Plant Society
West Virginia Native Plant Society

NPCC Cooperators

Botresearch USA
CalFlora Database
California Trout
Center for Native Ecosystems
Defenders of Wildlife
Endangered Species Coalition
Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics
Pacific Rivers Council
PlantaEuropa
PlantLife, UK
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
T&E Inc.
Xerces Society

For more information contact

Emily B. Roberson
Director
Native Plant Conservation Campaign
c/o California Native Plant Society
1722 J. St., Suite 17
Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: EMILYR@cnps.org
Phone: 916 447 2677
web: www.cnps.org/NPCC