

July 26, 2006

Native Plant Conservation Advocacy Focus of Webchat;

Conservationist, scholar to discuss efforts to protect plants, ecosystems

Washington -- The United States encompasses many types of ecosystems -- from mountains to plains to coasts. Each ecosystem is home to distinct types of native plants that are being threatened by both development and invasive species.

From 10 a.m. EDT (1400 GMT) August 2, Emily Roberson, the founder of the Native Plant Conservation Campaign, in a USINFO webchat, will discuss the efforts of "Native Plant Societies" in many U.S. states to educate people about conservation.

Roberson is director of the Center for Biological Diversity's Native Plant Conservation Campaign. She holds a bachelor's degree in plant ecology from Harvard University and a doctorate in soil microbial ecology from the University of California at Berkeley. Roberson worked as a researcher in the plant and soil sciences for 10 years before joining the California Native Plant Society in 1993. She founded the Native Plant Conservation Campaign in 2002 and moved the program to the Center for Biological Diversity in 2004.

Her current work focuses on native plant conservation advocacy with federal and state land management agencies. She specializes in issues related to endangered species law and policy, providing technical support and assistance to native plant science and conservation organizations, working with the scientific community to develop best management practices for native plant species and communities and publicizing the value and imperilment of native plants and ecosystems.

If you would like to participate in this webchat, please sign up on the USINFO Webchat registration page. Please tell us your preferred screen name; use of full names is not required.

If you have participated in one of our previous webchats, use the same user name and password. You may submit questions in advance to usinfowebchat@state.gov or directly during the webchat.

We accept questions and comments in advance of and at any time during the program. You may also e-mail

questions without registering.

The transcript of this webchat will be available on USINFO's Webchat Station, where information about upcoming webchats also is available.

For related information see the State Department publication, Protecting the Environment: 30 Years of U.S. Progress and Environment.

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