

Rare plant gets new protections

Seattle Post-Intelligencer Staff and News Services

PESHASTIN -- A new government recovery plan calls for partnerships with private landowners to save the Wenatchee Mountains checker-mallow -- one of the rarest plants in Washington state.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the plant as endangered in 1999 after an environmental group, the Center for Biological Diversity, sued the department.

The checker-mallow is found in wetlands and moist meadows, near Camas Meadows, about six miles south of Peshastin off U.S. Route 97.

The checker-mallow is one of two federally protected plants found in the upper Wenatchee River Valley. The other is showy stickseed, which grows only in Tumwater Canyon.

The recovery plan calls for partnerships to be formed with private landowners and other public agencies to save the plants; contains guidelines to maintain the current plant popula-
