

Endangered native Willamette Valley wildflower declared saved

By [Pete Danko](#)

Staff Reporter, Portland Business Journal

Mar 5, 2021

-

Keep an eye out for Bradshaw's desert parsley on Willamette Valley prairie lands from late April to early May, when it's in bloom.

Peter Pearsall | U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service

A wildflower found only in the Willamette Valley and southwest Washington, once nearly extinct, has been saved.

The announcement Friday of the Endangered Species Act delisting of Bradshaw's lomatium — scientifically *Lomatium bradshawii*, but commonly called Bradshaw's desert parsley — showed the ESA's benefits, conservationists said.

"It's the latest example of how species on the brink can effectively recover when they're put under the care of the Endangered Species Act," Noah Greenwald, endangered species director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement. "Without it, this plant would have been consigned to the history books years ago as one more lost flower."

The plant is described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as about a foot in height with “vibrant yellow flowers when in bloom from late April to early May.”

Suppression of wildfire, urbanization and agriculture had been factors in a decline that left just 25,000 to 30,000 individual plants in 1988, when it was listed. Prairie restoration and habitat management, both by public and private parties, boosted the number to more than 11.2 million by 2018.

“Due to ongoing threats from woody encroachment and the spread of nonnative, invasive plants, sites containing Bradshaw’s lomatium require regular management to maintain the open prairie conditions that support robust populations,” the service said in [a decision](#) set to be published on Monday in the Federal Register. “Management activities may include, but are not limited to, herbicide application, mowing, and prescribed fire.”

Those activities benefit the plant by limiting nonnative, invasive plants and woody species that now pose the greatest threat, the service said.