

Frequently Asked Questions

Removal of Bradshaw's Lomatium from the Endangered Species Act



What action is the Fish and Wildlife Service taking?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is removing Bradshaw's lomatium from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) due to recovery.

What is the Bradshaw's lomatium?

The Bradshaw's lomatium is a plant in the same family as carrots and parsley, and is endemic to Oregon's Willamette Valley and neighboring lands in southwestern Washington. It grows low to the ground, often near tufted hairgrass, and can be recognized by its short, umbrella-like flower stalks. It is also known by the common name Bradshaw's desert-parsley.

Where is the plant found?

Most often, Bradshaw's lomatium can be found in wet prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley of Oregon and southwest Washington.

What does the plant need to survive?

This plant requires a high light environment to complete its life cycle. It also depends on pollinators for reproduction, welcoming over 30 species of bees, flies, wasps and beetles as visitors.

Why was this plant listed?

The plant and its habitat faced threats from land development for agriculture, industry and housing, with additional threats stemming from invasive grasses and woody plants. However, a recent species status assessment, completed for the 5-year status review of Bradshaw's

lomatium, determined that known threats to the species have been adequately reduced, with the species showing increased resiliency in multiple populations throughout its range. Its recorded population increase can be accredited to efforts such as species expansion and introductions, improved habitat and invasive species management, and increased population survey efforts.

How is this plant important to the ecosystem?

Bradshaw's lomatium is an umbrella species for other wet prairie inhabitants. Conservation geared toward this plant will help conserve other species found in the wet prairie, including plants such as western buttercup, common camas, Oregon sunshine, Willamette daisy, shaggy horkelia, white-topped aster, camas, and narrowleaf mule's ears and birds, including the western meadowlark.

How does a plant get reclassified or removed from the Endangered Species Act?

When a plant or animal is given ESA protections, the Service develops a recovery plan that includes specific recovery goals. Reviews of the species' status are conducted every five years. Once we determine the recovery goals are sufficiently met and threats no longer prevent the population from persisting into the future, the species can be proposed for delisting. This process include a public comment period a final rule.

What efforts have led to the Bradshaw's lomatium recovery?

Bradshaw's lomatium is resilient - when initially listed as endangered in 1988 only 11 populations and fewer than 30,000 plants were known. Now, thanks to the hard work of private and public partners dedicated to prairie restoration, the species is blossoming within 24 populations at 71 sites, and more than 11 million plants.

Strong partnerships are reason for this recovery and delisting. Of the 71 known sites, 51 are in either public ownership, public right-of-way, or are owned by a conservation non-governmental organization. A number of privately owned sites are also enrolled in the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetland Reserve Program, the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, or both. Thanks to these public and private partner efforts, the majority of sites have varying degrees of protection from further habitat loss and fragmentation.

Why did this plant go straight from endangered status to being delisted?

The best available science had determined that Bradshaw's lomatium no longer meets the definition of endangered or threatened under the ESA. A revised recovery plan for this plant was completed in 2010, providing criteria for how this plant could be recovered and delisted. We have seen significant improvements in the status of Bradshaw's lomatium since it was listed as endangered, both in terms of population abundance and distribution as well as threat reduction through habitat protection and management. In 2018, the 5-year status review for this plant determined, based on the best available scientific and commercial data, the species is not in danger of extinction now, nor is it likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

What if in the future, conditions change and Bradshaw's lomatium numbers or populations decrease?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will work with our partners to monitor the species' status for six years following its delisting from the ESA to ensure populations remain healthy and viable. The details of this monitoring are provided in the post-delisting monitoring plan for the species. If the status of Bradshaw's lomatium should significantly decline, the Service may reevaluate whether it warrants ESA protections

Based on our assessment, we estimated that even if some populations were to decline in abundance over time, at least 14-16 populations are expected to maintain high or moderate resiliency. Over a 25-50 year projected timeframe, the species overall is anticipated to retain multiple resilient populations throughout the range of the species, even in the face of potential change in climatic conditions.

What can I do to help Bradshaw's lomatium continue to thrive?

The public can assist by doing their best to help control the spread of invasive weeds. Easy ways to do this include brushing off your shoes before you head out for a hike or help with active removal of woody non-native invasive species such as blackberry or scotch broom. Removing woody invasive plants is a great way to help maintain habitat for Bradshaw's lomatium, keeping it in an early successional (grassland) condition. Your local Soil and Water Conservation District can be a resource for information on controlling the spread of weeds.

Another way to help Bradshaw's lomatium thrive is by planting native plants (flowering plants and bunchgrasses) to support pollinator populations. Bradshaw's lomatium is dependent on early-season pollinators, and increased abundance and diversity of pollen, nectar, and habitat resources can support larger and more diverse pollinator communities. By supporting prairie plant communities, you can benefit other listed plants and butterflies as well.