

News Release



Department of the Interior
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Announces Recovery of Bradshaw's Desert-Parsley

Native Plant Species No Longer Warrants Protection Under the Endangered Species Act

Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced the delisting of the Bradshaw's lomatium, also known as Bradshaw's desert-parsley, from the Endangered Species Act (ESA). When initially listed as endangered in 1988, there were only 11 populations of Bradshaw's lomatium and fewer than 30,000 plants. Due to native prairie restoration, habitat management, reduction of threats by private and public partners and the discovery of new populations, the species is now flourishing, with more than 24 populations and greater than 11 million plants.

This resounding success story would not have been possible without the ESA-inspired efforts of committed partners, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Land Management. Private landowners also played a critical role, enrolling in the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetlands Reserve Program and committing to long-term conservation of the plant.

"Collaborating with others is central to the work of the Service and paramount to successfully recovering threatened and endangered species," said Robyn Thorson, regional director for the Service's Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region. "In the Pacific Northwest, private landowners, non-profit organizations and government entities work together to restore prairie habitat, manage invasive species and protect natural resources that benefit countless wildlife and communities."

"This is exciting news and the result of years of work by committed partners, including non-governmental organizations, private landowners and numerous state and federal agencies," said Jose Linares, Northwest Oregon district manager for the Bureau of Land Management. "Our combined efforts have not only benefited the Bradshaw's lomatium but other native species important to our state, including the endangered Willamette daisy and Oregon's state bird, the western meadowlark."

Bradshaw's lomatium stands about a foot in height and displays vibrant yellow flowers when in bloom from late April to early May. It is endemic to Oregon's Willamette Valley and neighboring lands in southwestern Washington. The greatest density of populations occur in the southern portion of the Willamette Valley near

Eugene, Oregon. This plant depends on pollinators for reproduction, benefitting more than 30 species of bees, flies, wasps and beetles.

Historically, a combination of natural fires and planned burns by indigenous Tribes helped Bradshaw's lomatium populations thrive. With the shift away from these practices and an increase in active fire suppression, undeveloped prairies have been lost. This loss, along with changes in land use (urban development and agriculture) and competition with invasive grasses, pushed this plant toward extinction.

"Lacamas Prairie Natural Area Preserve protects a portion of the only occurrence of Bradshaw's lomatium in Washington, as well as several other rare plant species and the state's best remaining example of a wet prairie ecosystem," said David Wilderman, program ecologist for the Washington Department of Natural Resources' Natural Areas. "We plan to continue these efforts and are pleased to have contributed to the recovery of this species and to help show how the Endangered Species Act can be successful."

The Department's Natural Areas and Natural Heritage programs have been working with partners, including the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and the Service to conserve this habitat and population of Bradshaw's lomatium since 2012.

Bradshaw's lomatium was proposed for delisting in November 2019. All substantive comments received during the public comment period are addressed in the final rule, which will be effective 30 days from publication in the *Federal Register*. For more information on Bradshaw's lomatium and the link to the *Federal Register* notice, go to <http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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