



# Guidance and Best Practices for Planting Golden Paintbrush in Oregon and Washington



Photo: USFWS/A, LaValle

Golden paintbrush was listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1997. While the species was delisted under the federal ESA due to recovery in 2023, it remains state-listed as threatened in Washington and endangered in Oregon.

## State listed species regulations

In Washington, state listing does not include any prohibitions on use of golden paintbrush. However, its state threatened status indicates that this species is still a conservation concern in the state.

In Oregon, state regulations prohibit the sale, propagation, collection, import, export, and transportation of state-listed plant materials without a state-issued permit through the Oregon Department of Agriculture. New restoration or outplanting projects in Oregon require obtaining a state permit.

In both states, it is strongly recommended that seed be used for restoration of populations in prairie and grassland habitat within

the Willamette Valley-Puget Trough Ecoregions.

## Paintbrush hybridization

Golden paintbrush can hybridize with other paintbrush species when grown within pollinator distance, potentially threatening existing populations. In particular, hybridization between golden paintbrush and harsh paintbrush (*C. hispida*) has been identified as a threat to populations of golden paintbrush, especially in the south Puget Sound region in Washington. This rarely occurs in the wild because the species often grow in different habitats, but the risk can increase when people plant paintbrushes on lands in close proximity to existing populations.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Washington Department of Natural Resources have partnered to manage this threat by creating guidance to help ensure that future plantings of golden paintbrush and harsh paintbrush are reviewed for potential hybridization risk before they occur. The three agencies

ask that all future plantings follow the guidance in the Hybridization Strategy to evaluate hybridization risk in your area prior to planting. In some locations, such as the south Puget Sound in Washington, a planting proposal may have to be submitted to have your planting plans evaluated by the Agency Review Team.

## If you would like to plant golden paintbrush or harsh paintbrush in Washington or Oregon:

Please see the Hybridization Strategy and Guidance to evaluate hybridization risk in your location: <http://www.fws.gov/project/hybridization-strategy-and-guidance-golden-paintbrush-and-harsh-paintbrush>



USFWS Photo



### **Recommended Best Management Practices for Seed Producers:**

- Only sell seed for use within the Willamette Valley-Puget Trough-Georgia Basin Ecoregions.
- Given limited seed availability, prioritize seed for restoration efforts that continue to contribute to the recovery of the species.
- Distribute hybridization outreach materials to everyone considering purchasing seed.
- Import or export of seeds into or out of Oregon needs a legally required permit from the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

### **For more information:**

If you have any questions related to the paintbrush hybridization, please contact:

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### **For questions about state regulations and conservation issues, please contact:**

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