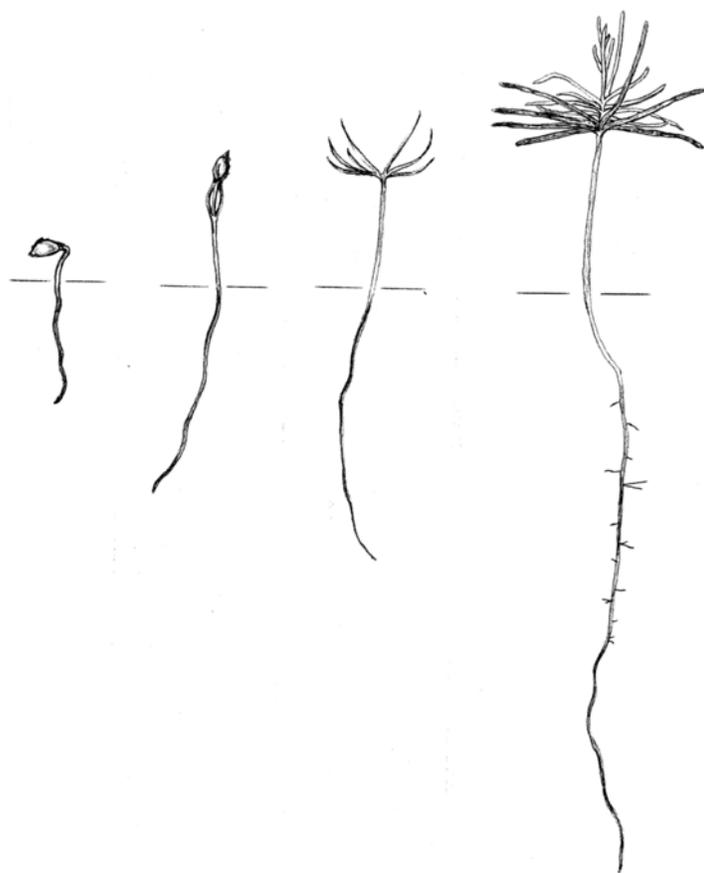


# Sage Notes

*Idaho Native Plant Society*



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**Submissions:** Members and others are invited to submit material for publication. Articles in any form, even hand-written, are welcome, as is artwork. Please provide a phone number in case there are questions. Material will be returned upon request.

**Cover:** *Pseudotsuga*, USDA Forest Service from USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database.

### Editor's Note:

Alas, Sage Notes 27 (1)!

Many thanks to all of those that have kept this (the premier newsletter on conservation of Idaho native plants and their habitats) on our shelves and coffee tables over the years. This is payback - after thinking, over the years, I should contribute something to Sage Notes, but having never - here I am serving as editor!

There is a general consensus within the Society that Sage Notes should be produced by a committee. The job is too much for one person to take on - for any length of time or in a sustainable manner. Rather, we need a team of folks, all contributing small or large pieces to the whole; either in a series of contributions (produced reliably for sequential issues) or as a single installment.

Sage Notes is open to all. A vast amount of opportunity is here: little ideas, big dreams, stories, technical papers, white papers on conservation issues, personal reflections, artistic renderings, imagery, book reviews, lists (of plants, people, or places; lists of lists), poetry, field reports, meeting reports, and advertisements.

Opportunity abounds! Please consider submitting to Sage Notes. Better yet - please consider serving on the Sage Notes Editorial Committee.

Thanks,  
*SKR.*



Photograph by M. C. Russell

## President's Message

By Steve Rust

Over the past years the Society has devoted considerable energy to developing and clarifying an understanding of who we are. We have achieved significant accomplishments, including, development of our webpage, revision of the mission statement, and drafting a policy for conservation action.

Early this year I argued for increased clarification of the relationship between the Society and its chapters with the analogy that INPS is not so much a federation of separate tribes as it is one tribe with separate camps. Indeed INPS is a statewide organization. Membership is open to all. Member affiliation with one or more chapters, however, is optional. The corollary of this hierarchical relationship is that an individual's affiliation with a chapter requires membership in the Society.

Discussion and action on internal governance is necessary and enabling. In the din of these lengthy engagements, however, perhaps we have lost pace in actually pursuing our mission, that is, fostering understanding and advocating conservation of Idaho's native flora and habitats.

I propose in the coming year we focus on efforts to increase the Society's efficacy in education and conservation. These efforts should include improving our ability to provide timely information on conservation issues and Society activities. This might involve developing an editorial committee structure that allows a range of different levels of involvement and the capability of players to come and go with out loss of function.

We will continue to achieve excellence in hosting the annual rare plant conference. INPS should, as well, provide leadership in the conservation community on issues that involve Idaho's native flora and ecosystems through the preparation of well researched position statements. We need to bolster our capacity to respond to requests for information. Here we should employ our internet capacity and engage our membership's wealth of knowledge and experience in native plant propagation and gardening, botany, and plant community ecology.

By looking forward to desired results and products, rather than solely the means to those ends, we can create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.



Photograph by S. K. Rust

## Conservation Briefs

Compiled by Tom Jefferson

### Politics Trumps Science at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Political intervention to alter scientific results has become pervasive within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), according to a survey of its scientists released in February 2005 by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). As a result, those surveyed say that endangered and threatened species and their habitats are not being protected as intended by the Endangered Species Act.

The two organizations distributed a 42-question survey to approximately 1,400 USFWS biologists, ecologists, botanists and other science professionals working in Ecological Services field offices nationwide to obtain their perceptions of scientific integrity, political interference, resources, and morale within the agency. Though the agency published directives not to reply (even in off hours), nearly 30 percent (414) of all those contacted returned surveys.

UCS and PEER (2005) major findings regarding political interference are: (1) A large proportion of respondents who work in relation to endangered species scientific findings (44 percent) indicate they "have been directed, for non-scientific reasons, to refrain from making jeopardy or other findings that are protective of species." (2) Twenty percent of the agency scientists that responded indicated that they have been

"directed to inappropriately exclude or alter technical information from a USFWS scientific document." (3) A majority of all those that responded (56 percent) reported cases where "commercial interests have inappropriately induced the reversal or withdrawal of scientific conclusions or decisions through political intervention." (4) A large proportion of respondents (42 percent) indicated that they could not openly discuss in public "concerns about the biological needs of species and

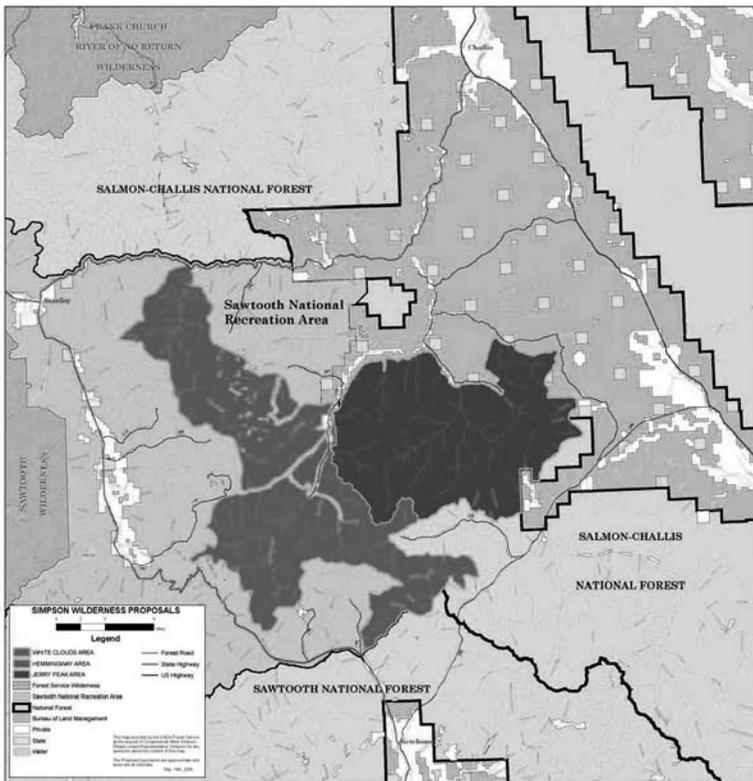
## Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness Legislation Introduced

This spring Representative Mike Simpson introduced legislation for the establishment of wilderness in the Boulder-White Clouds area. The Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act (CIEDRA), as it is called, has been widely portrayed as having something "for everyone to hate". The broadly developed package is intended to address concerns of several constituencies, including Custer County, ranchers, motorized recreationists, and conservationists.

Located in east-central Idaho, the Boulder-White Cloud area is the largest unprotected roadless area in the lower 48 states. Alpine glaciers of the Pleistocene carved the peaks and mountain valleys which constitute the Boulder Mountains and White Cloud Peaks. Though glaciers are long gone, diversity in the Boulder-White Clouds ranges from alpine landscapes to deep forest to mountain sagebrush and bunchgrass communities.

Idaho Conservation League and The Wilderness Society have supported wilderness designation for Boulder-White Cloud region since the late 1960's. This unique region received special recognition as a congressionally designated Wilderness Study Area in 1972, as part of the enactment of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. In 1987, the Forest Service recommended most of the WSA for designation as wilderness by Congress.

Off-road vehicle users and livestock operators have historically thwarted efforts to have the Boulder-White Clouds designation as wilderness. In recent years off-road vehicle use in the area has grown. Today too many meadows bear the signature of irresponsible dirt bikers' attempts to pioneer off-trail routes. The protests from dirt-bikers, all-terrain vehicle users, and snowmobilers continue to impede permanent wilderness protection for one of Idaho's best-loved mountain ranges.



Map adapted from <http://www.house.gov/simpson/ciedra.shtml>.

habitats without fear of retaliation." A large number of respondents (30 percent) felt they could not openly discuss concerns for species viability internally, within the agency. Nearly one third (32 percent) indicated that they feel as though they are not allowed to do their job as a biologist, ecologist, botanist or other science professional. Reference: Union of Concern Scientists and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. 2005. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Survey Summary. Report available online, [http://www.uconsusa.org/global\\_environment/rsi/index.cfm](http://www.uconsusa.org/global_environment/rsi/index.cfm)



Photograph by S. K. Rust.

CIEDRA calls for the designation 300,011 acres of Wilderness in three separate areas: Jerry Peak Wilderness, White Clouds Wilderness and Ernest Hemmingway Wilderness. The proposal includes federal land trades to Custer County and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation; congressional funding for trail development; a voluntary grazing allotment buyout program; and establishes permanent motorized recreation opportunities for motorcycles, all-terrain-vehicles, and snowmobiles.

Congressman Simpson should clearly be credited for his efforts. Conservation issues remain, however. In particular, public land conveyances within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and language that prioritizes motorized recreation in the special management areas. INPS will continue to follow development of this issue. To get involved please contact the conservation committee.

### Analysis: Final Rule on Roadless Areas and State Petitions

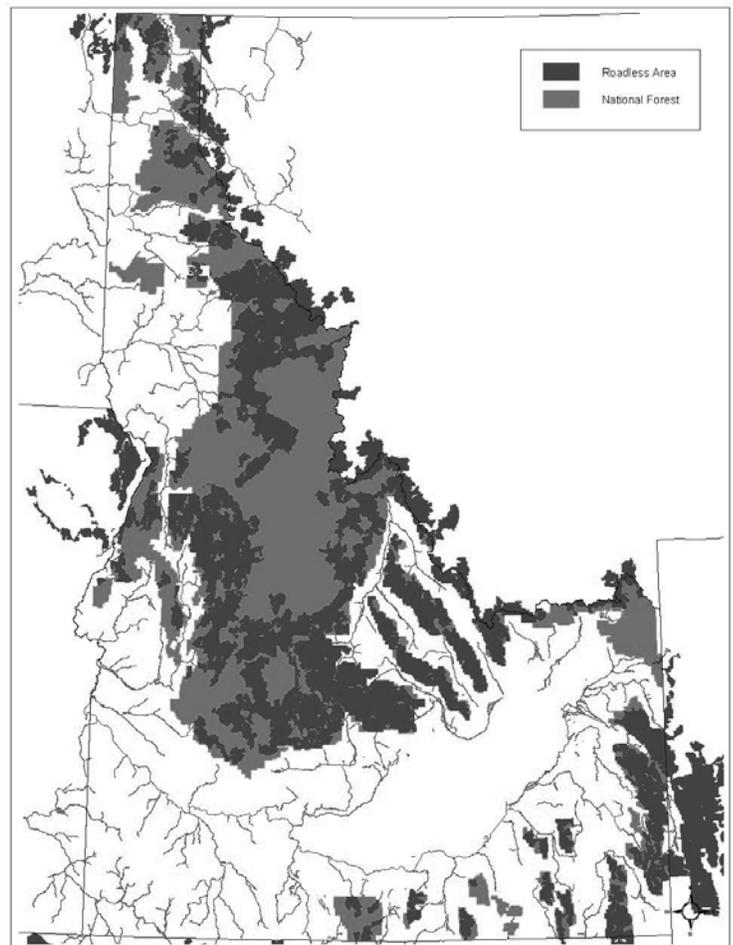
*By Mike Anderson, The Wilderness Society*

Following is a quick analysis of the Bush Administration's final rule to replace the Roadless Area Conservation Rule with a State petition process. This analysis is based on the final rule and Federal Register notice supplementary text posted on the Forest Service website on May 5, 2005.

Impact on Roadless Area Conservation Rule:  
The Bush rule entirely eliminates the protections provided by the Roadless Area

Conservation Rule adopted by the Clinton Administration in January 2001. Without the Roadless Rule's restrictions, management of roadless areas will revert to the management direction contained in local forest management plans. Nationwide, forest plans allow road building in 34 million acres of inventoried roadless areas, or about 59 percent of the 58.5 million roadless acres. Thus, most roadless areas will be vulnerable to new road construction for logging, energy development, and other commodity uses under the Bush rule.

State Petition Process: The Bush rule establishes an optional two-step State petition and rule-making process for roadless area management. First, the Governor of any State



Roadless areas in Idaho are superimposed on national forest system lands.

with national forest inventoried roadless areas can petition the Secretary of Agriculture to adopt regulations for management of any roadless areas in the State. Petitions have to be submitted within 18 months; after that, petitions could still be submitted through the USDA's general petitioning process. Second, if the Governor's petition is accepted by the Secretary, the Forest Service will initiate a State-specific rule-making process.

The state petition process is stacked against roadless area protection in several respects. First, there is no certainty that the process will result in any protection for roadless areas. Any petition submitted by a Governor will not necessarily be accepted. Even if a petition is accepted, the outcome of the subsequent State-specific rule-making will still be left up to the federal officials. In its explanation of the final rule, the Administration emphasizes that "there is no guarantee" the State's proposals will be adopted.

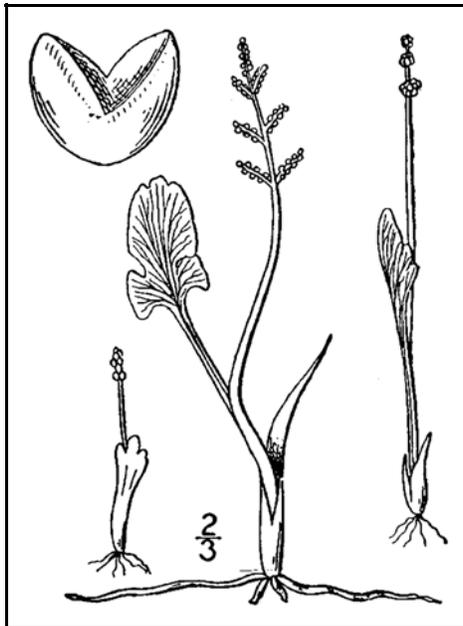
Second, the petition process imposes considerable burdens on the State. Petitions will have to address numerous issues that opponents of the Roadless Rule have consistently raised, such as property access, wildlife habitat management, and fire hazards. The petition will also have to show how the State involved the public, local governments, and resource experts in developing the petition. According to the Federal Register notice, "We envision a Governor involving all interested parties in such a process." Especially problematic is an open-ended requirement to explain how the State's proposal complies with "applicable laws and regulations" and compares to "existing State or local land conservation policies and direction." The Secretary could demand that the State provide additional information before taking action on the petition.

In addition, the State will have to make a commitment to participate as a "cooperating agency" in any environmental analysis of the subsequent State-specific rule-making. This means that the State will be required to allocate resources such as agency personnel, funds, and equipment to assist the Forest Service in preparing environmental documents required by NEPA. However, even with the State as a cooperating agency, the Forest Service will retain decision-making authority as the lead agency over all key aspects of the environmental analysis.

The Administration's cost estimate of \$25,000-\$100,000 in State costs per petition seems unrealistically low, given the obligation to share costs of site-specific NEPA evaluation. Since the Administration exempted the Bush rule from NEPA analysis and documentation, the entire burden of NEPA compliance will fall to the individual States and local national forests. The Administration's estimate also evidently fails to consider potential litigation costs to the States associated with defending against lawsuits that may be filed by both supporters and opponents of roadless area protection.

The only significant change in the July 2004 draft rule is the addition of an advisory committee. Made up of 12 representatives of national organizations, the committee will give advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on implementing the State petition process. The committee will review each State petition and make its recommendations within 90 days. Advisory committee members will be selected by the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary is under no obligation to follow the committee's advice.

In sum, the Bush Administration's roadless rule opens the door to road-building and logging in



*Botrychium simplex*. USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada. Vol. 1: 3.

roadless areas and creates a voluntary petition process that is stacked against roadless area conservation. Roadless area management will immediately revert back to management direction in local forest plans, which generally allow road-building and logging in most roadless areas. A Governor who wants to protect roadless areas will be faced with meeting burdensome requirements to develop the petition and help prepare the subsequent environmental analysis, with no certainty that the Administration will accept the State's requests.

### Will Governor Kempthorne's Plans Protect Idaho's Roadless Areas?

By Craig Gehrke, The Wilderness Society, Idaho

On June 23, 2005 Governor Kempthorne announced his plans for managing Idaho's last unspoiled roadless forests. For years, Idahoans have shown their overwhelming support for protecting these irreplaceable forests with a national policy. These special places provide exceptional hiking, fishing, and hunting opportunities for Idaho families and deserve continued protection -- not only for the income they provide our state's economy, but also for what they mean to our heritage.

Idaho's national forests currently contain 34,000 miles of roads – more than six times the amount of roads in the state's highway system. And a 2004 report by Taxpayers for Common Sense documented that there is a \$660 million backlog of road maintenance and improvement needs on Idaho's national forests. Roads threaten water quality and damage fish and wildlife habitat. It defies common sense that we would allow for more roads when we can't afford to maintain existing ones.

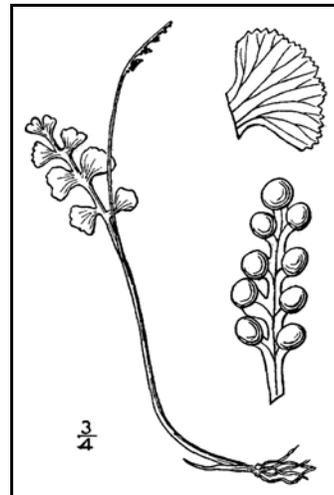
Anglers know the best water quality and fish habitat in the state are found in wilderness and roadless area streams and rivers. These streams provide habitat for fish such as bull trout, salmon, and steelhead. Hunters relish the vast roadless forests where elk and other wildlife make their home. And millions of families have come to love (continued page 9)

### Science-Based Management on National Forest System Lands

Adapted from notes by Emily B. Roberson, Director, Native Plant Conservation Campaign

A significant positive development occurred recently in the struggle for science-based management of sensitive plants on our national forests. This is balanced, however, by a major set back for species and ecosystems on national forests with the December 2004 adoption of new National Forest Management Act (NFMA) regulations.

The USDA Forest Service has approved an unprecedented new requirement for early surveys for endangered, threatened, and sensitive plants during the planning of projects such as logging, road building, prescribed burning, off-road vehicle route designation, and construction of facilities. The new standard, which applies to eleven national forests in the Sierra Nevada of California and Nevada, requires that surveys for rare and listed plants occur not only prior to project implementation, but early in project planning so that projects can (and must) be designed to protect or recover imperiled species and their habitats. Though the significance of the new standard may seem unusual to biologists familiar with National (continued on page 9)



*Botrychium lunaria*. USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada. Vol. 1: 3.

## A Small Woman With a Big Voice: Keeping Idaho, Idaho

By Kim Pierson

*"The fragile world we live in depends on us. It is our home. It is a sacred gift. We have a spiritual connection with the land and what it produces. We must take care of it."*

-- Nelle Tobias, 2000

Idaho lost one of its most devoted defenders in the spring of 2005. Nelle Tobias died on April 30 in McCall at the age of 98. She was a life-long advocate of conservation in Idaho and gave her money, her time, her passion and her strong voice to the preservation of Idaho's natural wonders. Due in part to her efforts, this generation and those to come will be able to take pride in our beautiful state. Nelle took social and political action to "keep Idaho, Idaho."

Born on a Snake River homestead in 1906, Nelle Tobias was raised and educated in Idaho and graduated from the College of Idaho in 1928. She served as a landscape architect with the National Park Service for ten years before moving to McCall and starting her own business, the Edgewater Cabins. Tobias took an extremely active roll in her community and her native state, often being described as outspoken and cantankerous. She confronted "bloated corporations," and the "dictatorship of stockman's organizations," and helped to found the Idaho Conservation League. She confronted conservation issues by speaking publicly, writing letters, funding research, and spending her time as a naturalist in the field. She didn't stop there. On the national level her efforts contributed to move Congress to pass the Wilderness Act of 1964, and the Wild and Scenic River Act of 1966. Four million acres of Idaho are now protected as Wilderness because of the efforts of founding conservationists like Nelle Tobias. These areas include Hells Canyon, Gospel Hump, the Sawtooth National Recreational Area, and the Frank Church River of No Return



Photograph by K. Pierson

Wilderness Area in the heart of Idaho.



Photograph by R. K. Moseley

As homage to Nelle Tobias, a narrowly endemic wildflower was named in her honor.

*Saxifraga bryophora* var. *tobiasiae*, Tobias' saxifrage, now bears her name. Nelle herself first discovered this Idaho endemic while hiking near French Creek on the Payette National Forest near McCall with Dr. Patricia Packard (Albertson College of Idaho Professor Emeritus of Biology). Though this plant was diminutive, Nelle noticed that it was distinctive. After extensive floristic comparison by Dr. Packard and others, it

was determined that this taxon was unique to Idaho and was so named in honor of the unique Idahoan who discovered it.

Beginning in 1994, I studied the reproductive biology and edaphic characteristics of this rare taxon as part of my Master's degree research at Utah State University. In the summer of 1995, I had the special opportunity to meet the namesake of Tobias' saxifrage when "Outdoor Idaho" filmed a documentary on Nelle Tobias and her contribution to Idaho's natural preservation. At 88, Nelle powerfully led the hike to visit the Fisher Creek Saddle population of Tobias' saxifrage. For the cameras she shared her conservation ethic, her love for the mountains of Idaho, and her sincere belief that all of us should share the responsibility for conservation. Though the edited television piece that aired was only five minutes in length, the two hours of filming that I shared with Nelle in her natural element was undoubtedly one of the most spiritually moving experiences of my life. I recall that Nelle was moved to tears when she shared her love for Idaho and the natural world. She feared that she might have made a mistake by inviting the world to share in the spectacular beauty of Idaho. She hoped that all who were drawn to this area would come with the spirit of preservation and the knowledge that we are responsible for conserving this natural world for generations to come.

*Editor's Note:* Kim Pierson is now employed as Forest Botanist on Sawtooth National Forest.



Photograph by K. Pierson.

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## Species Profile

### -Tobias' saxifrage

By Michael Mancuso

Tobias' saxifrage (*Saxifraga bryophora* var. *tobiasiae*) is a wildflower endemic to the Salmon River Mountains north of McCall, Idaho. It is known from only seven populations, scattered over an area approximately 11 miles wide by 12 miles long, and all located on the Payette National Forest. Tobias' saxifrage is small plant, usually no more than about 6 inches tall, although much larger individuals can sometimes be found. Plants are covered with glandular hairs and most stems and branches have a reddish color. It has small, star-shaped white flowers that usually bloom beginning around mid-July, and continuing well into August at some sites. Many plants, however, have no, or only one, or a few flowers. Most flowers are replaced by



Photography by R. K. Moseley

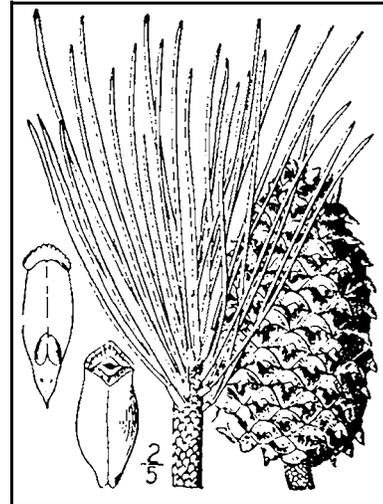
vegetative propagules called bulbils – miniature reproductions of the parent plant. Bulbils are a form of asexual reproduction. They drop off the parent plant later in the season, over winter, then

resume growth early the next summer.

Tobias' saxifrage was originally discovered by Nelle Tobias in 1978, near Fisher Creek Saddle, along the divide between the Salmon and Payette river drainages. It was described as a new species in 1981, and named in honor of its discoverer. Most populations of Tobias' saxifrage consists of a series of scattered small groupings of plants. Occupied habitat is probably less than 1 acre at most, if not all, populations. At least 1,000 individuals have been tallied at each population.

Tobias' saxifrage occurs in subalpine forest community openings among slabs of exposed granitic bedrock, rock outcrop ledges, or gentle gravelly slopes. Its habitat is saturated early in the growing season, but tends to dry out later in the summer. It is absent from warm sites that become dry too quickly. Tobias' saxifrage occurs in sites characterized by considerable amounts of exposed bare soil and substrate instability. Elevations of known populations range from 6,900 to 8,400 feet. A few commonly associated species include threeleaf lewisia (*Lewisia triphylla*), woolly pussytoes (*Antennaria lanata*), buttercup suksdorfia (*Suksdorfia ranunculifolia*), yellow fawn-lily (*Erythronium grandiflorum*), and the moss *Polytrichum juniperum*. Five other species of *Saxifraga* have been observed in the vicinity of Tobias' saxifrage. These include brook saxifrage (*Saxifraga arguta*), weak saxifrage (*Saxifraga debile*), russethair saxifrage (*Saxifraga ferruginea*), Tolmie's saxifrage (*Saxifraga tolmiei*), and diamondleaf saxifrage (*Saxifraga rhomboidea*). Upon close inspection, none should be confused with the distinct-looking Tobias' saxifrage.

Tobias' saxifrage is one of the rarest plant species in Idaho. It is a U.S. Forest Service Region 4 Sensitive Species for the Payette National Forest. It is also on the globally rare plant list maintained by the Idaho Native Plant Society. The main threat to Tobias' saxifrage appears to be accelerated erosion and other deleterious effects to the species' habitat due to high-magnitude disturbances such as severe wildfires. Populations occur on high elevation ridges in areas of low productivity and high amounts of exposed bedrock that are generally



*Pinus ponderosa*. USDA Forest Service from USDA NRCS PLANTS Database.

unsuitable for timber harvest, or to be favored places for sheep that graze near some locations.

Keep an eye out for Tobias' saxifrage if you are hiking around in the mountains north of McCall. It only grows in beautiful places, so you will enjoy the view even if you do not find the plant.

#### Selected references:

Grimes, J. W., and P. L. Packard. 1981. New taxa of Apiaceae, Hydrophyllaceae and Saxifragaceae from Oregon and Idaho. *Brittonia* 33: 430-434.

Mancuso, M. 2003. Monitoring Tobias' saxifrage (*Saxifraga bryophora* var. *tobiasiae*) on the Payette National Forest: 2003 results. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Conservation Data Center, Boise. 12 pp. plus appendices.

Moseley, R. K. 1989. Field investigations of *Saxifraga bryophora* var. *tobiasiae* (Tobias' saxifrage) a Region 4 Sensitive Species, on the Payette National Forest, with notes on *Campanula scabrella* (rough bellflower). Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Conservation Data Center, Boise. 13 pp. plus appendices.

Moseley, R. K. 1996. Effects of the 1994 Blackwell and Corral fires on populations of the rare endemic, *Saxifraga bryophora* var. *tobiasiae*, Payette National Forest. Report prepared for the Payette National Forest. Idaho Conservation Data Center, Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 7 pp.

Pierson, K. 1999. The reproductive biology and edaphic characteristics of a rare, gynodioecious saxifrage: *Saxifraga bryophora* var. *tobiasiae* (Saxifragaceae). Unpublished thesis, Utah State University, Logan.

## Governor Kempthorne's Plan (continued from page 5)

Idaho's roadless forests for their boundless hiking and camping opportunities. Our state's roadless national forests are a precious resource and they deserve continued protection under a national rule.

New forest plans do not adequately protect national forest roadless areas. Recently revised management plans for the Boise National Forest would allow 18% of that forest's roadless lands to be developed. Only 31% of the roadless lands on the Payette National Forest would be fully protected from road building and logging and only 27% of the roadless lands on the Sawtooth National Forest would be fully protected from road building and logging. Relying on individual national forests for roadless area protection means the loss of more of Idaho's wild forest lands to logging and road construction.

Thousands of Idahoans have said time and again that they want to see these natural treasures protected with a national rule. The governor's proposal will not achieve that goal.

*Editor's Note:* Idaho Conservation League has initiated an Adopt-a-Roadless-Area Program. To find out more about this effort or Governor Kempthorne's Roadless Proposal navigate to [www.wildidaho.org](http://www.wildidaho.org). Additional information on roadless area conservation is available from The Wilderness Society ([www.wilderness.org](http://www.wilderness.org)).

## Science-Based Management (continued from page 5)

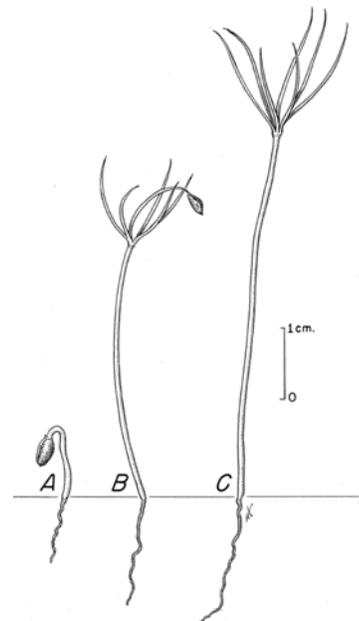
Environmental Policy Act procedures, the standard is a big step forward. Many conservation organizations will assert that the standard should be applied on all national forest system lands, not only those within the area covered by the 2004 Sierra Nevada Framework.

This positive development offsets the setback in National Forest management that occurred with publication of the NFMA revisions. The NFMA governs the management of all activities, resources, and commercial uses of the Nation's 192 million acres of national forest system lands.

The new NFMA rules roll back more than 20 years of requirements for sustainable, science based management of our national forests and protection for the fish, wildlife, plants and other organisms that live in them. Perhaps the worst aspect of the new regulations is removal of the (1982 NFMA 36 CFR 219.19) requirement that "... habitat shall be managed to maintain viable populations of existing native and desired non-native ... species in the planning area." This important tenant of viability is replaced by the ambiguous direction that national forests "provide a framework to contribute to sustaining native ecological systems by providing ecological conditions to support a diversity of native plant and animal species in the plan area (2004 NFMA 36 CFR 219.10(b))." The new NFMA regulations are being challenged in court by many organizations, including the Center for Biological Diversity, sponsor of the Native Plant Conservation Campaign.

### References:

The Wilderness Society. 2005. Final National Forest Planning Regulations Take Step Backwards. Unpublished report available online: <http://www.wilderness.org/OurIssues/Forests/nfma.cfm>.



*Pinus*. USDA Forest Service from USDA NRCS PLANTS Database.

## News and Notes

### NYBG Announces Publication of Volume 2B: Dilleniidae

The *Intermountain Flora* project is the preeminent botanical initiative documenting plant diversity between the Sierra Nevada and the Rocky Mountains. *Intermountain Flora*, published by New York Botanical Garden Press, is a fully illustrated series of six volumes. The authoritative flora covers Utah, large parts of Nevada and Idaho, and portions of Oregon, California, Arizona, and Wyoming.

The Press has announced the availability of the most recent addition to the series - Volume 2B: Subclass Dilleniidae by Noel H. Holmgren, Patricia K. Holmgren, and Arthur Cronquist. Part B or Volume 2 is the first of two installments of the final volume of the flora to be published. The publication will cover many ecologically important plant groups, including 17 families, 119 genera, 463 species, and numerous varieties. Noel and Patricia Holmgren are long standing members of Idaho Native Plant Society. Three cheers!

### Great Rift Science Symposium Planned for Fall, 2005

The Great Rift Science Symposium will be a gathering of scientists, educators, regional community leaders and the general public who share an interest in the unique landforms, biology, and history of the great lava desert of Southern Idaho. Most of the Great Rift is now protected within the Craters of the Moon National Monument. The Monument contains the youngest and most geologically diverse basalt lava terrain of the Snake River Plain and the largest basaltic lava field of Holocene age in the United States. This unique lava supports some of the most intact sagebrush-steppe ecosystems remaining in the world.

The four-day symposium will be held October 6-9, 2005 at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho. The event will begin with two days of intermixed keynote speakers, concurrent scientific panels, plenary sessions, poster

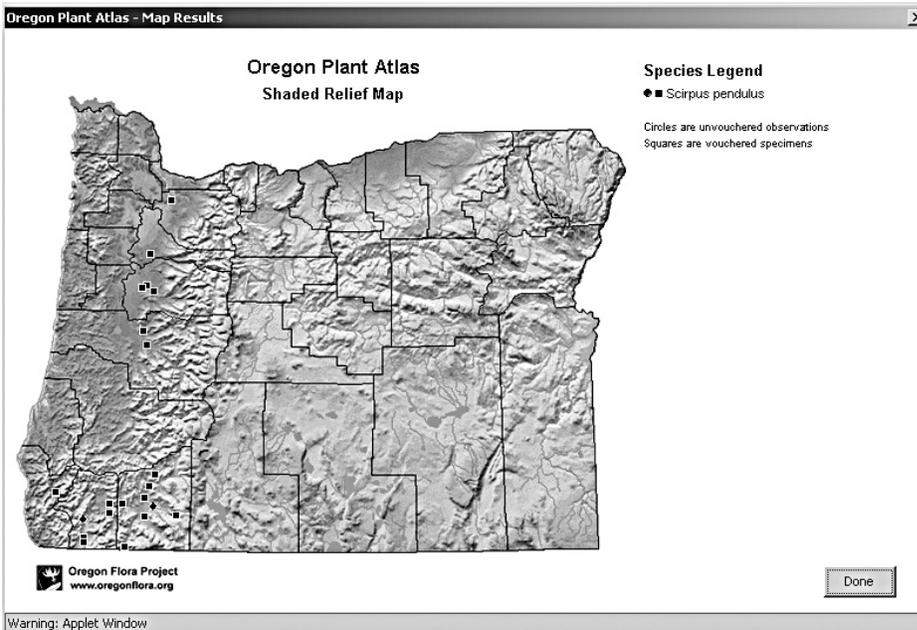
sessions, breakout meetings and evening cultural events. It will coincide with Idaho teacher in-service days so that educators can easily attend and gain academic credits. The two days of professional presentations will be followed by two days of site tours, including North Laidlaw Park, the Pioneer Mountains interface, Headquarters area, Pillar Butte, and the Wapi Flows. Locate more information on the symposium at: <http://www.georgewright.org/greatrift.html>.

### IDCDC Ecologists Locate New State Record

Idaho Conservation Data Center plant community ecologists Chris Murphy and Lisa Hahn located a new state record for the moss, *Sphagnum platyphyllum*. Specimens collected in the process of conducting inventory and classification work on Boise National Forest were determined by Amanda Hardman and verified by R. Andrus. The moss species was located on a large, pristine intermediate fen. Associated vascular plants are *Carex utriculata*, *Eleocharis pauciflora*, *Carex aquatilis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, and *Dodecatheon jeffreyi*. The species has a circumboreal distribution. The species is considered rare in Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Labrador, New Brunswick, Newfoundland Island, and Ontario) and the United States (Montana, New Jersey, New York, Wisconsin) (NatureServe 2005. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 4.5. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>).

### Oregon Flora Project Goes Online

The ultimate goal of the Oregon Flora Project is to produce an illustrated Flora of Oregon. The project, which was initiated in 1995, recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. It consists of four components: development of an up-to-date checklist of Oregon's native and naturalized vascular plants (Oregon Vascular Plant Checklist), an online atlas featuring distribution maps for all of Oregon's vascular plant taxa (Oregon Vascular Plant Atlas), publication of a one-volume manual of the vascular plants of



An example of information available online at [www.oregonflora.org](http://www.oregonflora.org).

Oregon (Flora of Oregon), and an online photo gallery featuring multiple images of each species, subspecies, and variety of uncultivated vascular plants in Oregon (Oregon Photo Gallery).

After ten years of data-gathering and hard work, the Atlas project is now online and available to the general public. Over 385,000 records in the Atlas databases provide the data to create plant distribution maps. The user chooses the desired species and base map to generate a customized distribution map, and can also access information for each plant record.

The online Oregon Vascular Plant Atlas features distribution maps for all of Oregon's vascular plants. The maps provide information for each species showing where it has been collected or observed in Oregon. Atlas users become map makers, creating maps to show up to six taxa, and base map of their choice (e.g., depicting landforms, ecoregions, mean annual precipitation, or county lines). Herbarium specimens, species lists, and other observations provide information used to place each dot that is mapped. Clicking on a dot reveals the information associated with that record. The

Atlas database currently has approximately 385,000 records representing 96% of Oregon's 4516 taxa.

The power of the Oregon Vascular Plant Atlas lies in the fact that the user is the map-maker and selects the information desired. For example, maps can be generated showing the distribution of one or a group of species, localities where a particular person collected plants, or plant localities during a designated time

period. Users can also obtain details on the location of a species. By moving the cursor over a dot on the map the user can call up the information associated with that dot. The database is periodically updated to reflect the latest information on the plants of Oregon.

For more information on the Oregon Flora Project and to access the Atlas go to: <http://www.oregonflora.org/>. Or contact the project coordinator:

Dr.Linda Hardison  
Oregon Flora Project  
Department of Botany and Plant Pathology  
Oregon State University/ 2082 Cordley Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331 (541) 737-4338  
hardisol at science dot oregonstate dot edu



Oregon Flora Project



Adapted from [www.esa.org/ecoservices](http://www.esa.org/ecoservices).

## Communicating Ecosystem Services

Ecological Society of America and Union of Concerned Scientists are cooperating to develop a new project that focuses on the services that nature provides. The goal of the project is to increase public awareness of the importance of ecosystem services and our country's biological resources. The cooperative project has produced a series of tool kits. Each tool kit focuses on a specific ecosystem service, such as water purification. They provide expert-reviewed background information on the service as well as materials for public distribution. The tool kits also include general tips to help scientists develop presentations and write articles for non-scientific audiences. These materials can be used to address local media, community groups, state and federal legislators, or other audiences. Although designed for people with a scientific background, no special expertise in a particular ecosystem service is required to use any of the materials.

The following tool kits are complete and ready to use now: pollination and water purification. Tool kits on forest carbon storage and flood damage control are under development. To provide greater access to project materials, the project has launched the Communicating Ecosystem Services website: <http://www.esa.org/ecoservices/>. You may view and download the tool kits. Use the tool kits to help spread the word about the importance of ecosystem services.

## Society News and Activities

### INPS Annual Meeting - Challis, Idaho, Friday through Sunday, July 8-10

Challis is located in the Lemhi Valley where the Lewis and Clark party first entered present-day Idaho after crossing the Continental Divide. Challis is one of the most arid places in Idaho and has an active geologic history. These factors may contribute to the numerous endemic plant species - known as the Challis endemics - found in the area.

We will explore the Challis area and hope for encounters with the following Challis endemics: Challis crazyweed (*Oxytropis besseyi salmonensis*), Challis milkvetch (*Astragalus amblytropis*), Lemhi milkvetch (*Astragalus aquilonius*), Salmon twin bladderpod (*Physaria didymocarpa* var. *lyrata*), wavy-leaf thelypody (*Thelypodium repandum*), and Welsh's buckwheat (*Eriogonum capistratum* var. *welshii*).

Following is a summary of the event:

Friday, July 8, evening - Meet at Challis Hot Springs for botanizing and camping.

Saturday, July 9, 8 AM - Meet at Challis Hot Springs for a field trip to Malm Gulch. We will visit a petrified forest of giant sequoias, explore interesting plant communities, and search for Challis endemics. Afterward, we may visit additional locations that may include Spar Canyon, Pahsimeroi, and various desert gulches.

Saturday, July 9, 6 PM or upon return from the field trip - Potluck barbeque just south of the campground at Challis Hot Springs. Bring a barbeque item for yourself and a potluck dish to share!

Sunday, July 10, 8 AM - 2005 INPS Annual Meeting.

Sunday, July 10, 10 AM - Wrap up the weekend with one last field trip (location to be determined).

## ERIG Committee Funds Conservation Oriented Speakers

The purpose of the Education, Research, and Inventory Grants (ERIG) Program is to stimulate research, conservation, and educational activities that help foster an appreciation for Idaho's native plants and plant communities. These grants are intended to promote native plant conservation through better understanding of our native flora and the factors affecting their survival. This year the deadline for proposals was January 14, 2005. Two ERIG proposals were received: 1) INPS Kinnikinnick Chapter requested funds to support a speaker on lichens and 2) Sawtooth Botanical Garden requested funds to support a speaker on native plant gardening. The Committee's recommendation was to fund both proposals. The INPS Board approved the committee's recommendation at its February meeting.

The INPS ERIG-supported Sawtooth Botanical Garden event occurred on May 26 at Gail Severn Gallery in Ketchum. Nancy Morin, former director of the Flagstaff Arboretum and the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums, made a presentation titled, "Native Plants for High-Elevation Western Gardens."

## Kinnikinnick Chapter

The following field trips are currently planned:

- July 23 - Wet forest habitat up Spar Creek to Little Spar Lake with Randy Beacham.
- August 13 - Roman Nose annual outing with Calypso and Spokane chapters.
- September 24 - Applied forest ecology and succession with Chris Schnepf at Round Lake.
- October 10 - Surprise Field Trip with Phil Hough.

## Pahove Chapter

The Annual Earth Day Plant Sale was a total success. This was the fourteenth year of the annual fund raising event, which has helped the chapter fund activities and projects such as a native plant garden at a neighborhood public elementary school. The sale starting at 10 AM

and was sold out by about 12 noon with only a few forbs left. All plant material offered for sale was from commercial nursery stock or (in a few cases) was taken from members yards via division or transplant.

Indian Valley sedge (*Carex aboriginum*) is one of Idaho's rarest species. Of high conservation concern, it's known to occur in only eight sites in the world - and its range is centered smack-dab in the colorful, diverse foothills of west central Idaho. On the weekend of June 4 Chris Murphy and Gillian Crymes led a field trip to collect long-term monitoring data in populations of the species. The information will help guide future conservation actions for the species.

## Sah-Wah-Be Chapter

July 16 and 17 - See the wonders of Steens Mountain in southeast Oregon with leader and botanist Dr. Karl Holte. Karl taught Field Botany on Steens Mountain for over 30 summers and still enjoys revisiting the area as often as possible. This year's trip will be similar to the 2004 trip, except that it is three weeks earlier in the season and thus should afford a better display of flowers. For more information on the trip email (ardysholte at cableone dot net) or telephone Karl (232-6563 or 241-8358). Please contact Karl as soon as possible if you intend to participate in this trip! Please see the chapter web page for more details (<http://www.idaho-nativeplants.org/>).

July 25 - Summer flowers on Scout Mountain, starting at Crestline Trail. This evening walk will be our third visit to the Scout Mountain area to see the seasonal progression of flowers. To carpool or caravan, meet at 6:00 pm by the bison in the ISU Student Union parking lot.

## *INPS Salutes*

### **Honorary Life Members**

Billie Farley  
Mary Grunewald McGown  
Patricia Packard  
Mike and Carol Prentice  
Lynda C. Smithman  
Robert Steele  
Beth Workman  
Joseph and Lois Wythe

### **Many Thanks to Our Patron Members**

Laura and Bill Asbell (Calypso)  
Charles Baun (Pahove)  
Joe and Merlyn Belloff (Sah-Wah-Be)  
Branching Out, LLC (Wood River)  
Janet Campbell (White Pine)  
Jeanne and Bill Cassell (Wood River)  
Ann Christensen (Wood River)  
Nancy Cole (Pahove)  
Pam Conley (Pahove)  
Gillian Crymes (Pahove)  
Conservation Seeding and Restoration, Inc. (Loasa)  
Christopher Davidson (Pahove)  
Kate and Lou Dersch (Loasa)  
DG Nursery and Turf (Pahove)  
Barbara Ertter (Pahove)  
Dan Ray and Valerie Geertson-Ray (Pahove)  
Barbara J. Gentry (Loasa)  
Elaine Gill (Pahove)  
Alma Hanson (Pahove)  
Janice Hardman (Sah-Wah-Be)  
Jacie and Wayne Jensen (White Pine)  
Robert Lee (Calypso)  
David R. Mead (Loasa)  
Reid and Nancy Miller (White Pine)  
Darlene Nemnich (Loasa and Pahove)  
Charlotte Omoto (White Pine)  
Kaye and Hugh O'Riordan (Pahove)  
Julie and Robert Randell (Loasa)  
Red Willow Research, Inc. (Loasa)  
Bruce and Alice Ronald (Sah-Wah-Be)  
Michael Thomas and Alissa Salmore (Sah-Wah-Be)  
Sawtooth Botanical Garden (Wood River)  
Michael Thompson (At Large)  
Eudora Thorpe (Sah-Wah-Be)  
Marsha VanDeGrift (Pahove)  
Klara Varga (Sah-Wah-Be)  
David Varner (Pahove)  
Wendy Velman (Sah-Wah-Be)  
James and Eileen Whipple (White Pine)

## **Welcome New Members!**

November 2004 - June 2005

### **Members At Large**

Dan Norris and Nancy Hillyard

### **Calypso Chapter**

Marilyn Nielson

### **Kinnikinnick Chapter**

Gail Bolin, Andrew and Betty Chapman, Robert and Teri Farr, George and Barbara Gauzza, Ann Gehring, Jan Griffiths, Manfred Hoffman, Thomas and Joyce Lane, Irvin and Michele McGeachy, Lee and Sue Sayers

### **Loasa Chapter**

James Gose-Eells, Mary Inman, David R. Mead, Darlene Nemnich, Red Willow Research, Inc., Lois Rohay, Karl and Jennifer Ruprecht, Dale and Ruthie Turnipseed

### **Pahove Chapter**

Bruce Ackerman, Laura Bainbridge, Ron and Mary Bitner, Stew and Margo Churchwell, Peggy Faith, Mark and Christine Fiechter, Cathy Ford, Steve Hanchett, Kathi Kershaw, Anne Leaf, Barbara Leinberger-Bolin, Leonard and Elizabeth Riccio, Marsha VanDeGrift, Morgan Case and Thomas Woolf

### **Sah-Wah-Be Chapter**

Ginina Dugdale, Diane Eater, Carolyn Fulton, Dorothy Galloway, Gay Gilbert, Gary and Cathy Gross, Michelle Gustin-Jones, Janice Hardman, Pauline Havens, Donna Hillard, Joan Juskie, Charlotte McMurtrey, Cathy McPherson, Jan O'Neil, John and Mary Reichman, Georgie Russell, Hannah and Matt Sanger, Eudora Thorpe

### **White Pine Chapter**

Barbara Andersen, Jane Holman, Andrew Hudak, Karen Laitala, Sara Robson, Lisa Stratford

### **Wood River Chapter**

Naomi Ferguson, Branching Out, LLC, Sawtooth Botanical Garden

# Idaho Native Plant Society Directory

## Officers

President, Steve Rust  
Vice President, Beth Colket  
Secretary, Karen Colson  
Treasurer, Marlene Fritz  
Member-at-large, open  
Past President, Kristin Fletcher

## Committee Chairs

Conservation Committee, Tom Jefferson  
Education, Research, and Inventory Grants Committee, Marlene Fritz  
Editorial Committee, Steve Rust  
Website Committee, Paul Shaffer

## Calypso Chapter

PO Box 331  
Careywood, ID 83809  
President, Bob Lee  
Vice President, Open  
Secretary, Phil Hruskocy  
Treasurer, Janet Benoit  
Newsletter, Phil Hruskocy

## Kinnikinnick Chapter

206 N. 4th Ave  
PMB 162  
Sandpoint, ID 83864-1424  
President, Molly O'Reilly  
Vice President, Connie Horton  
Secretary, Annette Fraser-Runnalls  
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Newsletter, Mary Jo Haag, Wendy Aeschliman, and Margareta Larson  
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Education, Jim and Cheryl Stern  
Landscaping, Eileen Atkisson and Parise Whitley

## Loasa Chapter

1409 Bitterroot Drive  
Twin Falls, ID 83301  
President, Steven Paulsen  
Treasurer, Merri Neiwert  
Conservation, Steven Paulsen  
Education Chair, Kim Pierson  
Newsletter, Miriam Austin.

## Pahove Chapter

PO Box 9451  
Boise, ID 83707  
President, Judy Ferguson  
Vice President, Marlene Fritz  
Secretary, Karen Colson  
Treasurer, Jody Hull  
Newsletters/reminders, Cyndi Coulter

## Sah-Wah-Be Chapter

5157 Whitaker Rd.  
Chubbuck, ID 83202-1619  
President, Cathy Frischmann  
Vice Presidents, Mel Nicholls  
Secretary, Susan Hunter  
Treasurer/Membership, Janet Bala  
Newsletter, Ardys Holte and Dana Bergsbaken

## White Pine Chapter

PO Box 8481  
Moscow, ID 83843  
President, Al Stage  
Vice President, Paul Warnick  
Secretary, Open  
Treasurer, Karen Gray  
Environmental Impact and Forest Plan Comment, Angela Sondenaa  
Publicity, Tyson Kemper  
Newsletter, Nancy Miller  
Landscaping and Restoration Plant Lists, Juanita Lichthardt  
Past President, Sonja Lewis

## Wood River Chapter

PO Box 3093  
Hailey, ID 83333  
President, Tess O'Sullivan  
Vice President, Joanne Vassar  
Secretary-Treasurer; Carol Blackburn

IDAHO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (INPS) is dedicated to promoting interest in native plants and plant communities and to collecting and sharing information on all phases of the botany of native plants in Idaho, including educating the public to the values of the native flora and its habitats. In keeping with our mission, it is the intent of the INPS to educate its membership and the public about current conservation issues that affect Idaho's native flora and habitats. Membership is open to anyone interested in native flora of Idaho. Send membership information and other correspondence to INPS Treasurer, Box 9451, Boise, ID 83707. Website address: [www.IdahoNativePlants.org](http://www.IdahoNativePlants.org).

CATEGORY	2004 ANNUAL DUES
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Household *	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen	\$ 8

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter affiliation preference (check one):

- Calypso (Coeur d'Alene; please include \$6 newsletter dues)  
 Kinnikinnick (Sandpoint; please include \$10 for Kinnikinnick Journal)  
 Pahove (Treasure Valley)  
 Sah-Wah-Be (SE Idaho)  
 White Pine (Palouse)  
 Loasa (Magic Valley)  
 Wood River (Wood River Valley; please include \$7 chapter dues)  
 None. Those who do not live near a chapter are encouraged to join. We can put you in touch with other members in your area, and can coordinate with you on any state level activities you may wish to be involved in.

\* Household memberships are allocated two votes

Idaho Native Plant Society  
PO Box 9451  
Boise, ID 83707

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