

Appendix J

Natural Heritage Program and Rare Plant Species Lists

The Washington State Legislature established the Washington Natural Heritage Program (WNHP) within the Washington State Department of Natural Resources in 1981 in order to help prevent further loss of Washington's diverse landscape features and natural systems. The WNHP collects data about existing native ecosystems and species to provide an objective, scientific basis from which to determine protection needs. The program also develops and recommends strategies for protection of the native ecosystems and species most threatened in Washington. This information is used by landowners, state and federal government agencies, consulting firms, planning departments, and conservation groups to support the state's environmental and economic health.

More information about the WNHP, including lists of rare plant species and high-quality ecosystems, reference information, and GIS data can be found by calling (360) 902-1667 or visiting the Web site at:

<http://www.wa.gov/dnr/htdocs/fr/nhp/wanhp.html>

Lists of rare plant species, organized by county, may be obtained at:

<http://www.wa.gov/dnr/htdocs/fr/nhp/refdesk/lists/plantsxco/countyindex.html>

Lists of high-quality ecosystems, organized by county, may be obtained at:

<http://www.wa.gov/dnr/htdocs/fr/nhp/refdesk/lists/communitiesxco/countyindex.html>