

Rare Plant Surveys In Mount Rainier NP

Eleven plant species in Mount Rainier NP occur on state threatened or sensitive species lists. Systematic surveys for rare species were initiated in 1987, using a methodology that complemented the state's Natural Heritage Program. Field surveys are conducted annually for one or two species and information is then shared with Washington state.

In 1987 a computer data base was set up, historic information collected and recorded, and field surveys initiated. *Castilleja cryptantha*, a candidate species for federal designation, was the focus for field surveys that year. Of 25 populations surveyed, 10 were relocations of historic sightings. Two historic sightings could not be relocated. Two populations were located adjacent to a developed campsite and had been impacted by human use. A temporary closure was placed on the campsite in 1988 pending a field review of the area. The field review was conducted in 1988 and the campsite was permanently closed due to its close proximity to water and the impact on the *Castilleja* population. In 1988, 35 populations of *Pedicularis rainierensis*, an endemic, state listed species, were recorded. All locations are recorded in the park's GIS system. dBase files, and with the Washington Natural Heritage Program.

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