

# Washington Natural Heritage Program Rare Plant Sighting Form



Please read instructions page. Shaded boxes are for Natural Heritage Staff use only.

Taxon Name: \_\_\_\_\_ EO # \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you confident of the identification?  Yes  No  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Survey Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Surveyor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Survey Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (yr-mo-day) County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Quad Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Quad Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Township: \_\_\_\_\_ N Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Section(s): \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 of 1/4: \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g. NW of NE)  
Directions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mapping** (see instructions): Attach a copy of the USGS 7.5 minute quad with the location and extent of the rare plant population clearly drawn. Do not reduce or enlarge the photocopy or printout of the map. If your map is a different scale (not recommended) please write the scale on the map.

Please answer the following:

- I used GPS to map the population:  No (skip to #2)  Yes (complete #1 & #3)  
 Coordinates are in an electronic file  Coordinates written below  
Description of what coordinates represent: \_\_\_\_\_  
GPS accuracy:  Uncorrected  Corrected to <5m  
GPS datum: \_\_\_\_\_  
GPS coordinates: \_\_\_\_\_
- I used a topographic map to map the population:  
 Yes (complete #2)  No (provide detailed directions & description above, and skip to #3)  
I am confident I have accurately located and mapped the population at map scale:  Yes (skip to #3)  
 No, but I am confident the population is within the general area indicated on the map as follows:  
On the same map, use a highlighter to identify the outer boundary of the area where the population could be, given the uncertainties about your exact location.
- I used the following features on the map to identify my location (stream, shoreline, bridge, road, cliff, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_

To the best of my knowledge, I mapped the entire extent of this population  
 Yes  No  Unknown If no or unknown, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Is a revisit needed?  No  Yes - if yes, why?: \_\_\_\_\_

Ownership (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Population Size (# of individuals or ramets) or estimate: \_\_\_\_\_

Population (EO) Data (include population vigor, microhabitat, phenology, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Plant Association (include author, citation, or classification, e.g. Daubenmire):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Associated Species (include % cover by layer and by individual species for dominants in each layer):

Lichen/moss layer: \_\_\_\_\_

Herb layer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Shrub layer(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tree layer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

General Description (include description of landscape, surrounding plant communities, land forms, land use, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Minimum elevation (ft.): \_\_\_\_\_ Maximum elevation (ft.): \_\_\_\_\_

Size (acres): \_\_\_\_\_ Aspect: \_\_\_\_\_ Slope: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo taken?  Yes  No

Management Comments (exotics, roads, shape/size, position in landscape, hydrology, adjacent land use, cumulative effects, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Protection Comments (legal actions/steps/strategies needed to secure protection for the site):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments (discrepancies, general observations, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form with map:

WASHINGTON NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 47016, OLYMPIA WA 98504-7016



## **Instructions for Washington Natural Heritage Program Rare Plant Sighting Form**

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The Washington Natural Heritage Program gladly accepts observations of rare plants from the public. Please complete as many sections as you can, even partial information is valuable. This form, available at [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/amp\\_nh\\_sighting\\_form.pdf](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/amp_nh_sighting_form.pdf), may be printed and mailed back to us at the address at the bottom of the form. It can also be filled out using Adobe Acrobat Reader (click the check boxes to fill them in) and then submitted to us via email by clicking the submit form button at the bottom right of page 2. If you choose email submission, please attach a map (as a graphic, pdf, html, or Word file), with the location marked. This may be done via <http://maps.google.com/> by clicking My Maps in the top left, clicking create new map (make it unlisted), adding a placemark or shape, clicking link in the top right, copying the link, and including it in your email.

### **Filling in the form:**

**Taxon Name:** Enter a complete scientific name.

**Are you confident of the identification?** If you had trouble with the identification, please explain why (e.g. immature or senescent plants, similarity to other species, etc.). If a specimen was verified by someone else, please indicate so, such as "verified by ....."

**Survey Site Name:** This should be a place name near the population, preferably something that appears on a USGS quad map. It should help someone not intimately familiar with the area relocate this population.

**Surveyor's Name:** Enter the name(s) of the person who located the plant. Include their phone number and email address so that they can be contacted if more information is needed.

**Survey Date:** When was the plant located? Please use year-month-day format (e.g. 2009-07-05 refers to July 5, 2009)

**County:** Enter the county in which the site is located.

**Quad Name:** Enter name of the USGS 1:24,000 scale quad map where the site is located.

**Township, Range, Section, and ¼ of ¼:** Enter the legal description of this site. Quarter sections should be entered in the form "NW of SE", which indicates that the site is within the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter section.

**Directions to site:** Explain how someone else could relocate the site, starting from a location easily located on a USGS quad map.

**Mapping:** Attach a copy of the USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map with the location and extent of the rare plant population clearly drawn. Do not reduce or enlarge the photocopy or printout of the map. If you're using a map at a different scale (not recommended) please write the scale on the map. Follow the three steps listed in describing your location. Include detailed comments here; these are useful to us.

**1. GPS:** Submitting a short list of GPS coordinate values is helpful. Please provide the accuracy and datum used by your GPS. Also, write a description of what these coordinates represent. For instance, do your GPS points represent the centers of individual patches, each with an estimated size or the edges of one patch?

**2. Topographic Map:** Submitting this helps us interpret your written observations, even if you are also submitting data collected via GPS. If neither a map nor GPS was used to collect the information, we will rely on written comments in "directions to site" and mapping question #3.

**I am confident I have accurately located and mapped the population at map scale:** Answer "Yes" only if there are nearby features on the map like roads or streams that allow you to be certain of the exact location.

**3. I used the following features on the map to identify my location:** Include comments that will help us map the site accurately. If the population is located near or within some feature on the map, please describe. For instance, we want to know if the plants are located within a wetland, at the base of a cliff, on the west bank of a river, or within the littoral zone of a lake.

**I mapped the entire extent of the population:** Might there be more of these plants in this general area? For instance, did you do an exhaustive survey of all surrounding appropriate habitat, or did you stop at a fence line or ownership boundary?

**Is a revisit needed?** Check yes if, for instance, identification should be verified at another time of year, the population should be mapped more accurately, if you did not survey all of the potential habitat, if you think there is some imminent threat, etc.

**Ownership:** If you know who owns the property, please enter that here.

**Population Size:** Your count or estimate of the number of individuals or ramets.

**Population Data:** Describe the population quality and phenology. For example: "45 plants scattered in a wet depression within an area of 10 by 45 meters. Vigorous plants with 30% flowering and 70% vegetative."

**Plant Association:** If you have access to a vegetation key, please include the plant association of the immediate area along with the author of the key.

**Associated Species:** Please enter the scientific names of the other plant species that are found in the immediate area and their percent cover, if determined. These should be described by layer as listed on the form.

**General Description:** Describe the local landscape, including physical landforms, vegetation, and land use.

**Minimum & Maximum Elevation:** Enter values in feet and a maximum elevation only if this is a large population with a range of elevations.

**Size:** How many acres does the population cover? If less than 0.1 acre, you can leave this blank.

**Aspect:** Enter the direction of slope as degrees or as a compass direction such as SW.

**Slope:** Enter as degrees or percent (please specify).

**Photo taken?** Check yes if you took a photograph of the plant or the habitat, otherwise, check no.

**Management Comments:** Enter information about land use and threats (exotic species, recreation, road maintenance, grazing, etc.), as well as recommended changes in site use that will help ensure continued existence of the population.

**Protection Comments:** Enter any legal steps that you think should be taken to protect the population.

**Additional Comments:** Enter anything that you think is important about this population that did not fit in any other space on the form.