



Intensive Plant Conservation Training Workshop

Project
09-364

Background:

Budget constraints limit the number of qualified botanists that can be hired to coordinate and conduct rare and imperiled plant regulatory reviews, conservation planning, recovery implementation and land management activities. Providing support for existing biological staff through supplemental training workshops will provide knowledge and resources about the multidisciplinary work involved in securing and restoring plant diversity on Department of Defense (DoD) lands. An interagency workshop environment also promotes positive collaborative work among federal agencies and their partners. The expected outcome is a more confident, connected, and effective workforce.

Objective: The goal of this Legacy-funded effort was to provide an accessible, intensive six day course/workshop in plant conservation that brings expert scientists and useful support resource materials to 30 DoD personnel, contractors, and partners, creating a collaborative network of advisors, practitioners, and agency regulators prepared to work together effectively.

Summary of Approach: The workshop curriculum was developed collaboratively through participation of over 25 experienced botanists from agencies, academia, and non-government organizations. Presentations include classroom presentations and exercises and one field day. Resource materials including literature, guidance, web resources, bibliographies and expert assistance were also provided. Additionally, an evening session was held with the population modeling instructor for students to discuss specific questions about their own data and issues with population viability analyses.

Benefit: Attendees report increased confidence and access to extremely useful resources. A well prepared workforce will be efficient and effective.

Planning, execution and success of work to secure and manage plant biodiversity resources will improve and result in healthier DoD lands. Ongoing compliance with legislative requirements will be facilitated.

Accomplishments: Eleven military personnel or contractors and fifteen military partners were trained and provided resources. Participants gave the workshop high marks in evaluations. Of evaluations turned in, eighty-six percent of the evaluation respondents said that workshop would help them in their career and that they would be able to use the workshop resources in their current position. Eighty-one percent of attendees said they would recommend this workshop to others.



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