Wildland Resource Managers follow up Botany Survey Report for: Southern Oregon Ready Mix: Mt. Shasta Site July 18, 2019

Introduction:

Wildland Resource Managers was requested by Southern Oregon Ready Mix LLC. to conduct a rare plant survey on a 34-acre project site located in central Siskiyou County, California. The site is located just north of the city of Mt. Shasta, directly east of Interstate 5 (see Vicinity Map dated 12/19/18). A sensitive plant list was developed from a search of the California Natural Diversity Data Base for the area to be surveyed. Those listed species for the areas included:

Common name	Scientific name	Ranking
Pallid birds-beak	*Cordylanthus tenuis pallescens*	1B.2
Trinity buckwheat	*Erigonum alpinum*	1B.2
Siskiyou clover	Trifolium siskiyouense	1B.1
Jepson's dodder	*Cuscuta jepsonii*	1B.2
Oregon fireweed	*Epliobium oreganum*	1B.2
Woolly balsamroot	*Balsamorhiza lanata*	1B.1
Thread-leaved bardtongue	*Penstemon filiformis*	1B.3
Gasquet rose	*Rosa gymnocarpa*	1B.3
Shasta chaenactis	*Chaenactis suffrutescens*	1B.3
Northern adder's tongue	*Ophioglossum pusillum*	2B.2
Aleppo avens	*Geum aleppicum*	2B.2
Baker's globe mallow	*Iliamna bakeri*	4.4
Pacific fuzzwort	*Ptilidium californicum*	4.3

Methods:

The first step of the survey was the development of a field guide listing each species that could be present within that area. The guide included colored pictures of the species, blooming period and a description of associated habitat. It was noted that the blooming period for the listed species ranged annually from May to September but that all species were blooming either in June or July. Therefore, June and July surveys were conducted at the site.

The first survey was done by two WRM staff on June 5, 2019 with the weather overcast and light wind. The second survey was done by one WRM staff on July 15, 2019 with the weather clear and calm.

For each survey, the surveyors attempted to walk a grid pattern across the entire site acreage. This proved to be difficult as a dense shrub field dominated by manzanita with lesser amounts of other species formed a nearly impenetrable barrier to accessing the interior of the site. Where present, game trails were used to access the interior areas. Due to this shrub field, most of the survey effort focused on the edges of the cleared areas where access was available.

Results:

Vegetation on this site may be characterized as manzanita-shrub with green leaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*) dominating the species composition. The shrub canopy cover exceeds 95% with the manzanita comprising 85 + percent of that total. Interspersed with the manzanita is bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) which makes up about 10%. Underneath the shrub layer squaw carpet (C*eanothus prostratus*) is found along with scattered grasses and forbs being present where sunlight can penetrate to the surface soils. Rabbit brush (*Chrysothamnus spp*.) is found along the edges of shrub field. Generally, the shrub field averages 4-5 feet in height and is extremely compacted and difficult to penetrate. The shrub layer may be characterized as mature to declining as decadency comprises nearly 50% of the shrub volume.

There are several species of trees on the parcel found generally as open grown singular trees or in small clusters, these being primarily in the southwest side of the area. These tree species include sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), white fir (*Abies concolor*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*).

The growth patterns of the shrubs and stature of the trees evidence a recent fire through the area. This is further evidenced by a few scattered burned out snags.

During the course of the two surveys none of the sensitive plant species listed for the area were found to be present on site.

For questions regarding this report, please contact:

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