

## Benton County Special Management Species: Bradshaw's lomatium

**BRADSHAW'S LOMATIUM** (*Lomatium bradshawii*) is a perennial plant in the carrot family native to the Willamette Valley. It was listed as endangered in 1988 under the federal Endangered Species Act, and also listed as endangered by the State of Oregon.

Bradshaw's lomatium has small bunches of bright yellow flowers and finely-branched leaves that resemble carrot tops. The umbrella-shaped clusters of flowers bloom in April and May.

Bradshaw's lomatium grows amongst clusters of grass and sedge which traditionally populated the Willamette Valley.

The Willamette Valley was historically grassy prairie dominated by oak trees. When human development increased, prairieland shrunk which endangered many species. Less than one percent of the original prairie habitat that once existed is still present today!<sup>1</sup>

There are more than 40 known occurrences of Bradshaw's lomatium in Oregon which include small populations from 10 to 1,000 individual plants. There are two known populations in

Washington State- and these two populations contain more plants than all of Oregon's populations combined.<sup>2</sup> Bradshaw's lomatium can be found in Benton, Lane, Linn, and Marion counties.

Like many native prairie species, this plant is partially dependent on ecological disturbance events, such as fires, that clear away competing woody species and allow sunlight to reach this plant.



Photo: J Dillon, USFWS

### PARSLEY OF THE PRAIRIE

Bradshaw's lomatium has many names based on the fact that it was traditionally considered an edible herb. These include 'Bradshaw's biscuit-root' and 'Bradshaw's desert parsley'. However, today it is an ESA-listed endangered species and it is unlawful to damage or harvest this plant. Conservation efforts have paid off and someday this plant might be recovered enough to be delisted if saving this plant continues to be a priority.

<sup>1</sup> Black, S. H., and D. M. Vaughan. 2005. Species Profile: *Icaricia icarioides fenderi*. In Shepherd, M. D., D. M. Vaughan, and S. H. Black (Eds). Red List of Pollinator Insects of North America. CD-ROM Version 1 (May 2005). Portland, OR: The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

<sup>2</sup> Oregon Department of Agriculture. Bradshaw's desert parsley (*Lomatium bradshawii*). Accessed online 5 April 2022.  
<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/PlantConservation/LomatiumBradshawiiProfile.pdf>