

**2009 RARE PLANT CONSERVATION INITIATIVE
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (May 4, 2009)**

#	Recommended Action	Lead/Team	Process/Direction	Timeline and Immediate Needs
1	Prioritize the 119 G1/G2 plant species for site-specific conservation action in 2009 (e.g., selecting poorly conserved species on scorecard).	Lead: Susan Team: Erin, Tom, RPTC, Jenny, Carol, Ellen, Gina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria: threat, knowledge, low hanging fruit, opportunity, geography, G rank, level of conservation and actions from scorecard • RPCI input • Use survey monkey, website –document who is working on what species • NPS newsletter • Send Susan list • Annual process 	Susan organize mtg by March 20, 2009 Use fall RPTC symposium
2	Prioritize the 32 B1 Important Plant Areas for action in 2009-13. Develop/implement conservation action plans with working groups consisting of local experts, land trusts, and land managers. Identify actions appropriate for each area.	Lead: Susan Team: Mo, Betsy, Erin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNHP integrate backlog into IPAs • Identify PAAs based on criteria: level of imperilment quality, urgency, other opportunities • Identify funding sources to support work • Continue implementing with 5 2008 PAAs and add a few more, depending on \$ 	
2a	Work with land trusts and willing landowners to place conservation easements on private lands within all 32 B1 Important Plant Areas.	Lead: Mo Team: Betsy, Ann, Steve, Susan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe for all LT how plants could help define and add conservation value for conservation easements and where in community they can use the CE • Meet with local LTs to help coordinate, share information, field trips • Explore NRCS easement programs, e.g., Healthy Forest Reserve program re T/E or species of concern & GRP (NRCS holds CE)-encourage to broaden language to include other unlisted species for FB programs • Outreach one pager why places have conservation & plant values for CCLT 	CCLT table – mid-March 09

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			meeting	
2b	Develop multi-species proposals to fund habitat protection of imperiled plant species across Colorado.	Lead: Dave Anderson Team: Gina, Andy, Betsy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify funding sources • FWS Section 6 fund for listed species-late summer RFP • GOCO • NFWF-acres for America • Economic stimulus package-thru forests & BLM • Private donors 	
3	Work with public agencies to collect/share best available data, develop and implement BMPs, and pursue/expand special designations.	Lead: TBD Special designations & stipulations: Brian & Erin Website: Tom BMPs: Susan & Brian Elliot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop workgroup for each species • How best organize data to search for species • Use website to gather data on what folks are doing, working plans, monitoring • RPTC symposia results-reorganize by species, include internal google search bar • Check point for each species for info, how many plants, trend data, status, extent of area (don't recreate CNHP Eos-determine boundaries) • Website for BMPS for species, survey needs, recommendations on grazing, management, research, so planners know what to do • CNHP has link to list of plants by quad • Prioritize groups of plants needing BMPs targeting threats (O&G, roads, grazing, etc) & make publicly available; LU Plan Revisions • Special designations: determine RMP schedule and opportunities 	

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4	Develop a plant policy for the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, General Assembly joint resolution, and Governor's executive order during 2009.	Lead: Eric Team: Paige Brian K., Rob B., Betsy, Josh, CNHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on internal policies for agencies • Joint resolution: need to consult with others on best timing & strategy • Meet with key legislators to determine feasibility • Which NGO should take lead? • Promotes green thinking • Fit with O&G rules: minimize impacts to wildlife-plants? 	JR-April 2009 EO-wait until DNR status
5	Develop a bill for a state plant statute that establishes a legally-recognized list/conservation program.	Lead: Eric & Paige Team: Rob, Josh, Betsy, CNHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good framework for bill done • Draft state bill, work closely with fed and state land managers on language to ensure success • Next legislative session will be better for state budget • If we keep cost reasonable and revenue stream, could be in good position • RPCI members spread the word to legislators & others that we need plant legislation, call it to their attention (ask what worries you? Id concerns to help us understand how to craft legislation, what groups should we talk to?, get suggestions) • Modest cost (under \$300K, 2 FTE, for stewardship, help landowners, not regulatory) • Ask what federal mechanisms & programs to tap into • Determine where program should sit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline-start in late May/early June to discuss with stakeholders • Use summer to clear hurdles and find a sponsor, get folks lined up • Shoot for bill in next legislative session • Late Nov. early Dec. send draft bill to RPCI etc • Introduce in Jan. 2010
6	Integrate plants into other statewide conservation planning and protection efforts, e.g., the Colorado State Wildlife Action Plan, the State Forest Assessment, and Colorado	Lead: TBD SWAP: Susan Team: Brian & Laura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNHP submitted proposal to NatureServe to integrate plants into SWAP to start this summer • What process did CCP go thru for appendix (TNC help) 	

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	Conservation Partnership, and the Colorado Conservation Summit. Add Forest Plan and BLM Revisions	Co NPS Conservation Committee-need new chair- CNAP, FWS & CNHP keep an eye out COSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide input and review FS and BLM plan revisions, e.g., RNAs and ACECs • CO NPS review govt docs, e.g., RMPs • Identify other statewide, county, open space, and city conservation planning efforts (make plants part of template when doing land use planning) • County weed crew efforts control weeds in right areas, areas to avoid (e.g., Upper Arkansas) • EPA protection bulletins- provide information for bulletins about pesticide use-need to know where plants are to avoid • Monsanto Pre-serve re pesticide use-need to have information for other counties 	
7	Improve scientific understanding of the distribution, natural history, and status of rare plants through inventory, research, and monitoring.	Lead: Ellen Team: Tim, Susan, Dina, Brian, Jill, Leo RPTC leads info sharing (FWS, CNAP, CNHP, DBG, CoNPS) RPCI is organizing, integrating info from RPTC, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamental info to manage/conserves plants (decisions should be based on sound science) • Support RPTC info. sharing (RPCI more action oriented towards on the ground conservation) • Be more organized and systematic about how best to prioritize species • This is part of everything else • Develop prioritized list of needs and get info on website, to drive resources to focus on list (build on scorecard) • Website – clearinghouse for what is being done and what needs to be done • Organize info so it is most useful • Prioritize species, create funding mechanisms, and get monitoring, research or inventory done • Role of a state program 	Rare Plant Symposium

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		making recommendations to improve conservation of plants, taking action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify understudied and under-collected parts of the state • Develop and share monitoring approach and efforts • Which species need taxonomic work that will impact management or conservation (10-12) 	
8	Adopt measures for <i>ex situ</i> (off site) conservation in case native populations are extirpated.	Lead: Jenny Team: Michelle, Christina, Nicola, Sarada, Carol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Kennedy suggested we add all G1-G2 species to be included in DBG/CPC seed program agreement • FS plan to collect G1-G2 plants into seed lab 	