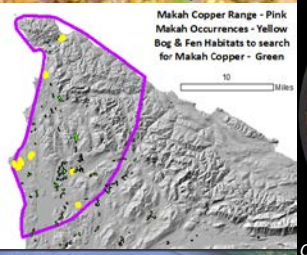
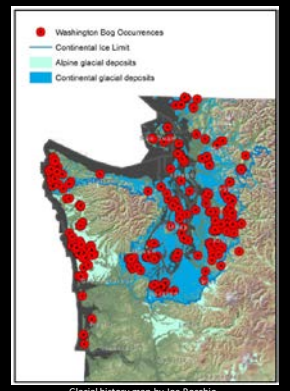
Olympic Peninsula Prairies

Lowland Prairies Surrounding the Olympic Mountains

Photo by Robert Pyle



Makah Copper Range (orange), occurrences (yellow) and possible habitat (green). June's Copper Range (purple) to the south, June's copper occurrences (purple) and more possible habitat (green) and extensive forested fens (blue). Map created by A. McMillan using range layers from Caitlin C. Bar created in 2019 using range data from Pyle and Hammond (2018). Possible habitat mapped by Anita McMillan.



Glacial history map by Joe Rocchio.

Drosera rotundifolia in bloom

Photo by Patrick Loafman

Coptis trifolia Found at one single Prairie Site near Ozette

South facing hilltop grassy balds occupied by Taylor's Checkerspot Butterflies

Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly larvae above, adult below.

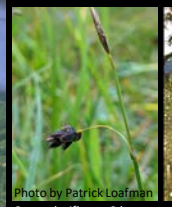


Photo by Patrick Loafman

Carex pluriflora – 3 known sites on Olympic Peninsula; Common further north.

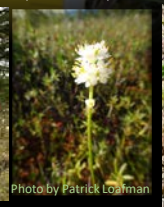
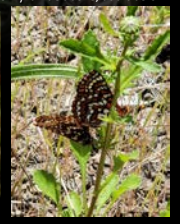


Photo by Patrick Loafman

Tofieldia glutinosa



View from space showing sunshining more intensely on east side of Olympic Peninsula

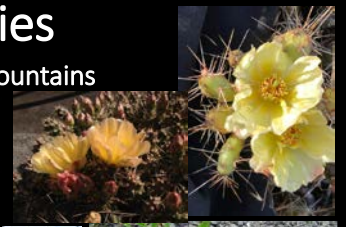


Photo by Patrick Loafman

Lomatium nudicale Low elevation populations to be split into another species.

Spring 2022 Qatay Prairie: maintenance regime for 1.4 acres is: hand weeding during the growing season, autumn mowing; N0 chemicals in use.

Photo by Patrick Loafman

Geum triflorum
Golf Course Prairie
& High elevation

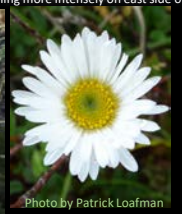


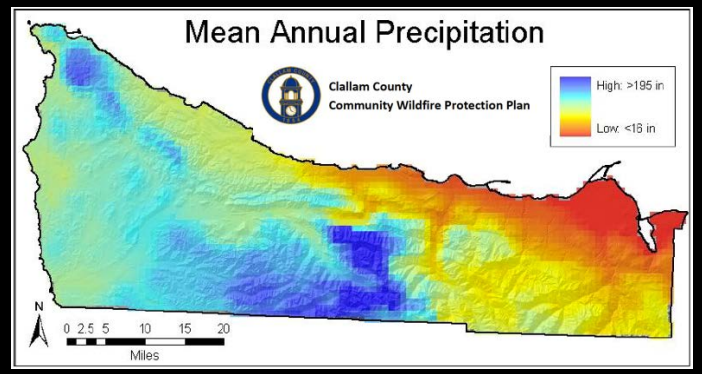
Photo by Patrick Loafman

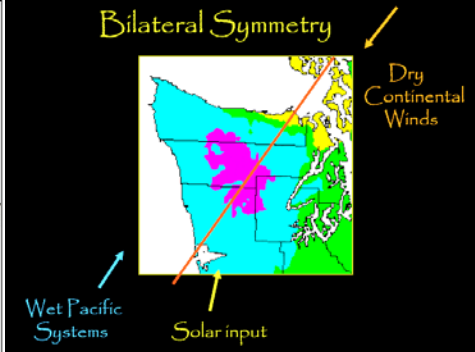
Erigeron peregrinus
Humptulips bogs

Photo by Patrick Loafman

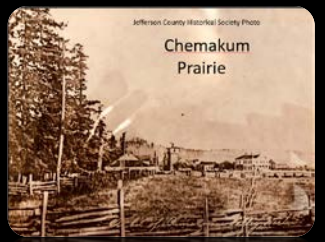
Carex pauciflora Rare in Washington. Found in a Dungeness Watershed cold bog relic

Chemakum Prairie: Former pasture was covered with a large heavy tarp (in background) from July through March to smother grasses and weeds; then singed to clear the dried straw, residual seeds, and gently alkalinize the soil. Next we will install bulbs (sprouted) and over-seed with native wildflower seeds. More seeds will be added in late summer. In this way there is no need to resort to glyphosate or other herbicide. The 'cool' burn is confined to just the area needed, and the brief fire generates less smoke than a picnic bonfire

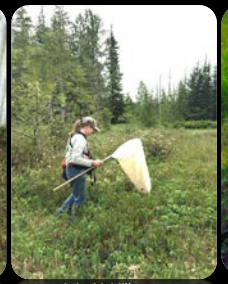


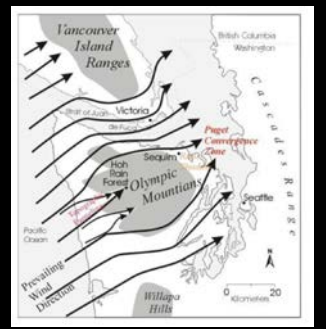
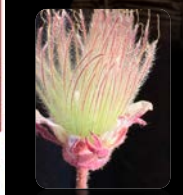


Field lupine (Lupinus micrathus).
This resplendent flower patch is alongside SR 20. WSDOT was spraying the roadside with Glyphosate at least yearly, leaving a dead zone for months. Nearby manzanita shrubs were getting 'burned'. Forest Shomer began a yearly process of removing the spray target, Scotch broom, by hand-pulling. There were hundreds...Gradually Forest gained the advantage over broom, even though new seedlings emerged from the soil seed bank, and as the broom subsided, the lupine which had been suppressed, gained ground. In 2022 the lupine has filled the space, reseeds itself each year, and it looks like maybe WSDOT has realized that spraying here accomplishes nothing. Forest uprooted about a dozen first-year broom seedlings while taking these photos. The space is clear again.
There are so many places that could be in prairie bloom if given the support of removing invasive, incompatible competition.



Forest Shomer



Anita McMillan

Fred Sharpe