



CALIFORNIA PLANT RESCUE

California Plant Rescue (CaPR) member institutions make conservation collections of seeds and living plants to secure high levels of genetic diversity in off-site collections, such as botanic gardens and seed banks, to safeguard wild populations in a time of uncertainty. We also gather information about wild populations to ensure that a baseline of information will be available for future generations.

2021

CONSERVATION SEED BANKING

75%

CNPS 1B-ranked plants represented in CaPR ex situ collections

10

types of plants assessed and newly ranked as 1B in 2021

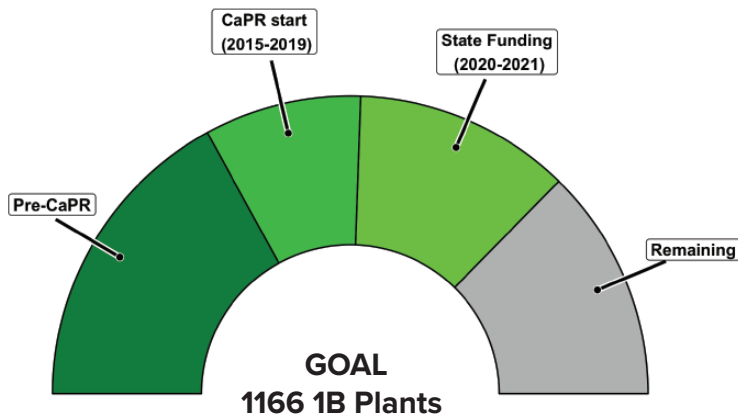
51

CNPS 2 and 4-ranked plants brought into CaPR seed banks



BUILDING CAPACITY • STRENGTHENING COLLABORATIONS

1B Plants in Seed Banks



2 Exceptional Species Approved

We are now supporting CaPR members' work on species that cannot be seed banked



4 New Field Trucks

Sturdy 4WD vehicles get CaPR teams safely to the rugged areas that are home to the species we strive to protect



Reinforcing Partnerships

CaPR made strides towards federal partner agreements and renewed our CaPR Memorandum of Understanding



Gentiana setigera



Field truck



Delphinium purpusii

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Mirroring the rest of California, 2021 was a year in which CaPR partners again needed to adapt to working under the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 restrictions, wildfires, and severe drought across the state. Yet the group continued to make progress towards our goals, making rare plant seed collections in support of the California Biodiversity Initiative with funding from the state. In adding 128 rare and endangered plants (those ranked 1B by the California Native Plant Society [CNPS]) to seed banks this year, we have met the Convention on Biological Diversity target to establish 75% of a region's most at-risk plants in ex situ collections. To prioritize seed collection of California's most rare and endangered plants, CNPS reviewed and ranked potential 1B plants in an assessment process partially supported by the state funding, with 10 new plants were recognized as 1B in 2021. These new additions become new collection targets, as CaPR continues to work towards our goal of securing all of the 1B-ranked plants in ex situ collections.

To this end, we have recognized the need to support members conserving exceptional species – those that cannot be conserved in conventional seed banks. In early 2021, a focus group outlined processes to systematically identify these species, as well as to approve proposals for funding their collection for conservation. Two proposals were approved, each with partners outlining how they plan to curate long-term conservation collections of different rare oaks. Oaks are an incredibly important group of exceptional plants in California, and we are excited to support CaPR members' work with these trees.

Traditional seed collections will continue to be our main form of conservation. This year we had more members participate than ever before – including contracts with three members who had not previously made collections. We increased capacity for collections by helping to fund field vehicles for four institutions – which will allow them to reach plants in all corners of the state for years to come. A sturdy field vehicle proved key for California Botanical Garden to secure Sweet-smelling monardella (right) – enduring a 4-wheel driving adventure with an early morning river crossing that immediately froze water on the truck's hood – to reach this species threatened by climate change.



2021 marked the first time members were allowed multiple years to secure collections in their contracts and receive a guaranteed amount for successful collections from the California Biodiversity Initiative funding. This change helped avert risk associated with targeting specific types of plants and yielded strong collection numbers: teams secured 179 new types of CNPS-ranked rare plants! We are well on our way to the goal of securing 1166 1B-ranked species by 2025.



MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

California Botanic Garden
California Native Plant Society
Center for Plant Conservation
Mojave Desert Land Trust
Regional Parks Botanic Garden
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
San Diego Botanic Garden
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
Theodore Payne Foundation
UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley
UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden
UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden

KEY PARTNERS

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Food and Agriculture
California State Parks
Local governments
National Park Service
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service

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