

Idaho Panhandle National Forests Priest Lake Ranger District Native Plant Pollinator Garden & Interpretive Site

2011 Accomplishments

A recent remodeling for ADA access at the Priest Lake Ranger station resulted in a large amount of disturbance to existing landscaping. For employees of the Priest Lake Ranger District (PLRD) this presented a great opportunity to update the landscaping around the main office into a native plant pollinator garden and interpretive site.

The approximately ¼ -acre native plant pollinator garden (NPPG) incorporates a variety of native plants to provide food and habitat for pollinators as well as multiple landscape features and interpretive literature. The design will encourage the public to gain a better understanding of the association between pollinators and native plants, as well as encouraging future use of similar designs in local landscapes and gardens.

District personnel contributed over 100 hours of time to the project. Activities included amending the site with topsoil and mulch, incorporating native rock and woody materials (as both design features as well as pollinator habitat), and planting over thirty species of native plants! The plants are arranged in four different microsites in the garden to better educate the public about how and where to use different native species based on varying habitat types and site conditions.

The plants and hardscaping in the pollinator garden will provide a variety of color, landscape texture and form, as well as habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, from early spring through late fall. Some of the more “showy” plants include Canada goldenrod, various penstemon species, subalpine Jacob’s ladder, columbine, and wild hollyhock.

In 2012, installation of interpretive signs, plant markers, and a self-guided tour pamphlet will complete the project.



Forest Service crew planting the PLRD pollinator garden, autumn 2011.



Priest Lake Ranger District planting crew, autumn 2011.

<i>Year project Initiated:</i>	2011
<i>Project completion:</i>	2012
<i>Report number:</i>	1 of 2
<i>Expenditures (through 09/2011):</i>	\$3400 NFN3
<i>FY 2011 partners/collaborators:</i>	Region 1 Native Plants and Pollinators Initiative
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