

## Oregon Status Factors

**Elcode** PMORC0Q080  
**Gname** CYPRIPEDIUM MONTANUM  
**Gcomname** mountain lady's slipper

### Number of Occurrences

D = 81 - 300

**Comments** An estimate of occurrences in eastern Oregon is approximately 200 (personal communication, J. Kagan 2001), and another 100 in western Oregon (personal communication, Vrillakas 2002).

### Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

C = Few (4-12) occurrences with good viability

**Comments** It is estimated that there are between 4 and 12 large and viable occurrences.

### Population Size

E = 2,500-10,000 individuals

**Comments**

### Range Extent

G = 200,000-2,500,000 km<sup>2</sup> (about 80,000-1,000,000 square miles)

**Comments** The range for this species is southeastern Alaska south to California and east to Saskatchewan, Montana and Wyoming. It occurs in both eastern and western Oregon.

### Area of Occupancy

U = Unknown

LU = Unknown

**Comments** Unknown

### Long-term Trend in Population Size, Extent of Occurrence, Area of Occupancy, and/or Number or Condition of Occurrences

C = Substantial Decline (decline of 50-75%)

**Comments** This species is reportedly declining slowly, due to fire suppression and perhaps also due to harvesting of wild plants (personal communication, J. Kagan, December 2002). Seevers and Lang (1998) mention examples of severe damage to populations on logged areas in Oregon and California.

### Short-term Trend in Population Size, Extent of Occurrence, Area of Occupancy, and/or Number or Condition of Occurrences

D = Declining. Decline of 10-30% in population, range, area occupied, and/or number or condition of occurrences

## Comments

### Threats

D = Moderate, non-imminent threat. Threat is moderate to severe but not imminent for a significant portion of the population, occurrences, or area.

Scope Moderate Severity Moderate Immediacy Low

**Comments** This species does not appear to tolerate disturbance. Attempts to reestablish plants on disturbed sites has been unsuccessful, though attempts have been successful on undisturbed areas (personal communication, Huber 2000).

### Number of Appropriately Protected and Managed Occurrences

C = Several (4-12) occurrences appropriately protected and managed

**Comments** At least 13 populations rangewide occur on public lands and one on an easement administered by The Nature Conservancy (Fertig 2000). Some protected populations on Forest Service land are not reproducing (Skinner and Pavlik 2001). Eight populations are located in Waterton Lakes National Park (Canada) and 2 in provincial parks in Alberta (Ksenija Vujnovic, personal communication, 2002), but these still subject to flower picking and high intensity fires resulting from long-term fire suppression.

### Intrinsic Vulnerability

B = Moderately Vulnerable. Species exhibits moderate age of maturity, frequency of reproduction, and/or fecundity such that populations generally tend to recover from decreases in abundance over a period of several years (on the order of 5-20 years or 2-5 generations); or species has moderate dispersal capability such that extirpated populations generally become reestablished through natural recolonization (unaided by humans). Ecological community occurrences may be susceptible to changes in composition and structure but tend to recover through natural processes given reasonable time (10-100 years).

**Comments** In the very best environment it takes *Cypripedium montanum* at least six undisturbed years to make its first flower, with most plants taking much longer (personal communication Huber 2000).

### Environmental Specificity

C = Moderate. Generalist or community with some key requirements scarce.

**Comments** It needs an intact layer of duff to initially establish its mycorrhizal association and 50%-75% shade for optimum growth (personal communication, Huber 2000).

### Other Considerations

ORNHIC - List 4

### Edition

### Edauthor

### Grank

S3S4

### Grank Date

11/15/2002

### Reasons

Although habitat loss and alteration is a major threat, there are still abundant enough numbers of plants and populations to warrant a mixed rank of S3S4. This species should be reviewed periodically at the triennial Oregon Rare Plant Conferences for possible upgrades to a higher priority.

### BCD Sources

## **New Sources**

Huber, Andy. 2000. Personal communication to Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center, Portland, OR