

**North and West Plant Survey of Crown Lands for Species at Risk**  
**A project of**  
**Native Orchid Conservation Inc.**

**Final Report**  
**for**  
**Mountain Equipment Co-operative**  
**149 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Vancouver BC V5Y4A6**

**by: Doris Ames, Project Manager**  
**Sept 30, 2004**

During the duration of this project, from August 1, 2002 to July 24, 2004, we have surveyed many different areas of Manitoba for plant Species at Risk. The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre defines Species at Risk as those with an SRANK of 3 or less where S1 means very rare in the province, S2 means rare in the province and S3 means uncommon in the province. We have identified a total of 29 different native plant species at risk, among them 9 species of native orchids and 3 medicinal plants of interest to First Nation communities. These plants were found at 44 different locations in the province (see list below). Native Orchid Conservation (NOCI) members put in over 900 hours of fieldwork conducting surveys in areas known to contain habitat suitable for rare plants. Some of the sites had not been surveyed for native orchids in more than 50 years.

Our trip to Riding Mountain National Park and Duck Mountain Provincial Park made it possible for us to have valuable input into the plans for management and development of these parks. The grant that we received from Mountain Equipment Cooperative also allowed six NOCI volunteers to take a trip to Churchill, where project funds paid for one-third of the expenses and each volunteer paid two-thirds of the expenses. We were able to locate and identify 17 plant Species at Risk, on this trip, as a result.

We have notified the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre of our findings so they can add them to their records. These records form the basis for conservation management of these rare species. We have GPS locations and photographs of most of them. Any specimens that we took were handed over to the University of Manitoba Herbarium. We notified the Department of Forestry, the peat moss companies and First Nation communities about the existence of these plants so they could help protect them. There were some special highlights to this survey.

We surveyed a bog near McCreary, Manitoba that has one of the largest concentrations of Heart Leaved Twayblade (*Listera cordata*) that we have ever seen as well as 8 other species of native orchids. What is so amazing about this finding is the bog is located in

an area where intensive agriculture, farming and raising of cattle, has taken place for the last 100 years and yet somehow it has survived as part of a PFRA pasture.

We found Least Mouse tail (*Myosorus minimus*), a rare plant species that has not been seen for 55 years in Manitoba, in another PFRA pasture at Marble Ridge near Fisher Branch.

In Churchill, we managed to locate a patch of blooming Fairy Slipper Orchid (*Calypso bulbosa*) at East Twin Lake. It is by far the most northerly location, in Manitoba, where these plants have been seen. The nearest documented location, for these plants previous to this, was in Flin Flon, 280 miles to the south.

We plan to make a PowerPoint presentation of our findings at Churchill and have already made a display board with native orchids for the Churchill Northern Studies Centre.

The MEC grant also made it possible for us to participate as a member of the Brokenhead Wetlands Committee whose mandate is to have this rare wetland and the rare plant species therein protected. The legislative process is now underway to have the Brokenhead Wetlands declared an Ecological Reserve.

The remainder of the funds were used to fund public education projects such as field trips and the production of displays and brochures. Some of the photographs that we took on these trips will be used in our soon to be published book on the orchids of Manitoba.

In conclusion, we believe this project was successful and will help to protect plant species at risk in Manitoba.

**Appendix A - Species-At-Risk locations documented during this project**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMMON-NAME</b>	<b>BOTANICAL-NAME</b>	<b>SRANK</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
June 9/03	Northern Valerian	Valerian dioica	medicinal	Spruce Grove Trail near Fisher Branch
June 24/03	Striped Coralroot	Corallorhiza striata	S3	Child's Lake Duck Mtns
June 23/03	Showy Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium reginae	S3	N side PTH#10 near Neepawa
June 25/03	Franklin's Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium passerinum	S4	W Blue Lake Duck Mtns
June 24/03	Striped Coralroot	Corallorhiza striata	S3	Shell Valley Trail Duck Mtns
June 24/04	White Adder's Mouth	M.monophyllos var.brachypoda	S2	Milner Ridge
June 12/03	Richardson's Alumroot	Heuchera richardsonii	medicinal	Brokenhead Wetlands
July 5/03	White Adder's Mouth	M.monophyllos var.brachypoda	S2	Milner Ridge
July 5/03	Showy Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium reginae	S3	Milner Ridge
July 7/03	Showy Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium reginae	S3	South of Contour
July 7/03	Grass Pink	Calopogon tuberosus	S2	South of Contour
July 7/03	Trailing arbutus	Epigaea repens	S3	South of Contour
July 7/03	Checkered Rattlesnake-orchid	Goodyera tessellata	S2	South of Contour
July 15/03	Green Adder's Mouth	Malaxis unifolia	S2	Milner Ridge
July 15/03	Ram's-head Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium arietinum	S2	Milner Ridge
Aug 22/03	Sweet Flag	Acorus calamus	medicinal	FR#13-W
Aug 22/03	Showy Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium reginae	S3	FR#1-South
<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMMON-NAME</b>	<b>BOTANICAL-NAME</b>	<b>SRANK</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
June 02/04	Least Mousetail	Myosorus minimus	S1	Marble Ridge near Fisher Branch

<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMMON-NAME</b>	<b>BOTANICAL-NAME</b>	<b>SRANK</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
June 30/04	Large round-leaved orchid	Platanthera orbiculata	S3	McCreary Bog
June 30/04	Showy Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium reginae	S3	McCreary Bog
July 13/04	Yellow Star Grass	Hypoxia hirsuta	S3	off PTH#6, S of 83N
July 13/04	Showy Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium reginae	S3	off PTH#6, south of Pelican Creek
July 13/04	Ram's-head Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium arietinum	S2	E of PTH#6, 3km N of Devil's Lk
July 13/04	Showy Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium reginae	S3	Long Point Road
July 13/04	Showy Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium reginae	S3	overlook off Long Point Rd
July 13/04	White Adder's Mouth	M.monophyllos var.brachypoda	S2	end of Long Point Road
July 13/04	Large round-leaved orchid	Platanthera orbiculata	S3	Long Point Road
July 15/04	White Mountain Avens	Dryas integrifolia	S3	Dene Village, Churchill
July 15/04	Lapland Rosebay	Rhododendron lapponicum	S2	Dene Village, Churchill
July 15/04	Trailing Willow	Salix arctophila	S3	Dene Village, Churchill
July 15/04	Northern Twayblade	Listera borealis	S2	Dene Village, Churchill
July 15/04	Net-veined Willow	Salix reticulata	S3	Dene Village, Churchill
July 15/04	Erect Primrose	Primula stricta	S2	Cape Merry, Churchill
July 16/04	Alpine Azalea	Loiseleuria procumbens	S3	Twin Lakes Rd, Churchill
July 16/04	Fairy Slipper Orchid	Calypso bulbosa	far north	East Twin Lake, Churchill
July 16/04	Velvet Bells	Bartsia alpina	S2	Twin Lakes Rd, Churchill
July 16/04	Marsh Felwort	Lomatogonium rotatum	S2-S3	Coast Rd, Churchill
July 17/04	Seaside Mertensia	Mertensia maritima	S2	Coast Rd, Churchill
July	Sea Sandwort	Honckenya peploides	S2	Coast Rd, Churchill

DATE	COMMON-NAME	BOTANICAL-NAME	SRANK	LOCATION
17/04				
July 17/04	Beautiful Cinquefoil	Ranunculus cymbalaria	S1-S2	Coast Rd, Churchill
July 18/04	Yellow Anemone	Anemone richardsonii	S3	Rocket Launch Area, Churchill
July 18/04	Flame-coloured Lousewort	Pedicularis flammea	S2	Rocket Launch Area, Churchill
July 20/04	Northern Twayblade	Listera borealis	S2	Nodwell Rd, Churchill
July 22/04	Ram's-head Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium arietinum	S2	E of PTH#6, 99km S of Grand Rapids

## Appendix B - Photographs



Least mouse-tail MarbleRidge 2004jun02



Showy lady's-slipper ForestryRd-4 2004jul07



Eugene Reimer 2004  
Northern twayblade Churchill 2004jul15



Eugene Reimer 2004  
Calypso Churchill 2004jul16



Eugene Reimer 2004  
Seaside mertensia Churchill 2004jul17



Eugene Reimer 2004  
Flame-coloured lousewort Churchill 2004jul18

This project was funded by Mountain Equipment Co-op.

