

**ECOLOGICAL
SERVICES**

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TO: Jody Shimp
FROM: John White
DATE: June 29, 2005
SUBJECT: Final report on surveys to update historical plant EORs in southern Illinois

Accompanying this report are a set of forms that document the results of my survey work during May and June.

I surveyed 33 historic EOs, and I found 13 new EOs. There are a total of 51 forms (instead of 46 forms) because I filled out two forms for three historic EOs and three forms for one historic EO. I filled out more than one form because the existing EORs cover extensive areas with diverse habitats and plant populations. I broke these areas down into smaller units and used separate forms for each of the smaller areas because I did not find it possible to record the information clearly on a single form.

The results of the surveys are summarized in the following table. Whenever I filled out more than one form for an existing EO, I added a letter to the EO number. For instance EO no. 001 for *Dryopteris celsa* is listed as 001-A and 001-B because I filled out two forms to document EO no. 001.

If I did not find a plant, I estimated the likelihood that it still is present even though I did not find it. I used these annotations:

Not present
Probably not present
May no longer be present
May be nearby
May be present
Probably present

Not present means that I think it is safe to conclude that the plant no longer occurs at the site. The other annotations indicate increasing likelihood, in my estimation, that the plant still occurs at or near the historical EO.

Some of my "new" EOs may not actually be new. I did not have information about all the EOs in IDNR's database, so I may have "discovered" an EO that is already documented in the database.

To prepare for my fieldwork, Barb Schuler copied EORs and any attachments that were on file at IDNR headquarters. These materials are stapled to my forms. When I filled out my forms, I often referred to specific parts of these materials, so they should be kept stapled to my forms even though they duplicate what is already in IDNR's files.

Summary of John White's surveys to update plant EORs in southern Illinois in May and June 2005

Species	EQ no.	County	Location	Species found?	Notes about habitat, population, management, etc.
<i>Asplenium bradleyi</i>	003	Union	LaRue-Pine Hills McGee Hill	Found	The habitat is intact, but the population is tiny and vulnerable to collectors.
<i>Asplenium resiliens</i>	001	Union	LaRue-Pine Hills Otter Pond	Found	The habitat is intact, but the population is tiny and vulnerable to collectors.
<i>Asplenium resiliens</i>	002	Union	LaRue-Pine Hills Fern Cove	Not found	This location has been unsuccessfully searched by me and by John Schwegman. I think the fern would be found if it were still present.
				Not present	
<i>Asplenium resiliens</i>	NEW	Union	LaRue-Pine Hills Near Winter's Pond	Found	The habitat is intact, but the population is tiny and very vulnerable to collectors.
<i>Carex communis</i>	001	Pope	Bell Smith Springs	Not found	The habitat is damaged or threatened by foot traffic, stream erosion, and trail maintenance (mowing).
				May no longer be present	
<i>Carex gigantea</i>	001	Union	LaRue-Pine Hills Otter Pond	Not found	The specific location is now overgrown because of woody plant succession, but there may be suitable habitat in the vicinity, elsewhere in Otter Pond.
				May be nearby	
<i>Carex gigantea</i>	NEW	Union	LaRue-Pine Hills LaRue Swamp	Found	A single plant was found in habitat that is marginal because of woody plant succession.
<i>Carex willdenowii</i>	002	Union	Bald Knob Sedge Site	Not found	The habitat may be becoming marginal or unsuitable because of woody plant succession.
				May be present	
<i>Carex willdenowii</i>	004	Johnson	Trigg Tower	Not found	The EOR's locational information is questionable. The habitat at this location appears unsuitable (too densely wooded).
				May be present	
<i>Clematis viorna</i>	001	Johnson	Cache River at Heron Pond	Not found	The site is destroyed by river entrenchment. The plant has not been seen here since 1971.
				Not present	

Species	EO no.	County	Location	Species found?	Notes about habitat, population, management, etc.
<i>Dryopteris celsa</i>	001-A	Johnson	Little Stony Point (J. White's station)	Found	A single plant occurs in good habitat.
<i>Dryopteris celsa</i>	001-B	Johnson	Near Heron Pond (J. Schwegman's station)	Found	A single plant occurs in good habitat.
<i>Dryopteris celsa</i>	NEW	Johnson	Bluff at the outlet of Little Black Slough	Found	More than 70 clumps occur in a solid bed of ferns in good habitat.
<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	001	Johnson	South of Heron Pond in sec. 31	Found	Many plants occur in good habitat.
<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	002	Johnson	North of Karnak	Found	Many plants occur in good habitat.
<i>Glyceria arkansana</i>	001	Union	LaRue-Pine Hills LaRue Swamp	Not found May no longer be present	The habitat has grown up with woody plants.
<i>Lysimachia radicans</i>	001-A	Johnson	South of Heron Pond	Not found May no longer be present	The habitat is now very limited or unsuitable because of woody plant succession.
<i>Lysimachia radicans</i>	001-B	Johnson	South of Watson Pond, south of the Cache River	Not found May be present	The habitat may have declined because of woody plant succession, and gullying and draining from river entrenchment.
<i>Lysimachia radicans</i>	001-C	Johnson	Little swamp near the outlet of Little Black Slough	Found	A single small colony occurs in good habitat.
<i>Matelea decipiens</i>	001	Williamson	Big Muddy River bottom near Colp	Not found May no longer be present	The habitat is largely destroyed by bulldozing of the forest.

Species	EO no.	County	Location	Species found?	Notes about habitat, population, management, etc.
<i>Panicum jooi</i>	001	Johnson	West end of Heron Pond	Not found Not present	The habitat is unsuitable, The EOR's locational information probably is in error.
<i>Panicum jooi</i>	NEW	Johnson	Northwest side of Heron Pond	Found	A healthy colony occurs in habitat that currently is good. This may be a new EO, or the correct location for EO #001.
<i>Panicum jooi</i>	NEW	Johnson	Between Heron Pond and the Cache River	Found	The colony is threatened by foot traffic, riverbank erosion, and <i>Lespedeza cuneata</i> .
<i>Panicum jooi</i>	NEW	Johnson	Near Cache River footbridge at Heron Pond (J. White's station)	Not found Not present	The site is destroyed by river entrenchment. I had no EOR for this station, but I filled out a sighting report form to document that I checked the site of the original (1969) discovery of the species in Illinois.
<i>Panicum ravenelii</i>	001	Hardin	Lamb	Not found Not present	The habitat may have been severely damaged by road widening. The site is heavily invaded by <i>Microstegium vimineum</i> .
<i>Panicum yadkinense</i>	001	Pope	Double Branch Hole	Not found May no longer be present	The EOR describes the habitat as a seepy area. I found no such habitat although I searched the area thoroughly. Perhaps the current drought is to blame.
<i>Paspalum dissectum</i>	003	Williamson	Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge	Not found Not present	The pond shore habitat has disappeared because erosion has breached the dam, Trees and wet meadow plants have invaded the mudflats.
<i>Penstemon brevisepalus</i>	001	Pope	Near Route 145 and Hayes Creek	Not found Probably not present	The habitat may have been destroyed by right-of-way maintenance (trees felled and piled on the plants, completely covering the bedrock outcrop).
<i>Planera aquatica</i>	003	Johnson	Cache River north of Heron Pond	Not found Not present	The site is destroyed by river entrenchment.

Species	EO no.	County	Location	Species found?	Notes about habitat, population, management, etc.
<i>Planera aquatica</i>	004	Pulaski & Johnson	North of Karnak	Found	A single plant was found in good habitat. More plants probably are present.
<i>Planera aquatica</i>	NEW	Johnson	Little swamp near the outlet of Little Black Slough	Found	A single tree and a seedling were found in good habitat.
<i>Plantago cordata</i>	001	Pope	Copperous Branch	Reported to be found recently	U.S. Forest Service staff recently visited the site and confirmed that this population is extant.
<i>Plantago cordata</i>	009	Saline	Judy's Creek	Reported to be no longer present	U.S. Forest Service and IDNR staff recently visited the site and could not find the plant where it had been monitored for many years.
<i>Platanthera flava</i> var. <i>flava</i>	001-A	Johnson	North of Heron Pond in sec. 19	Not found	The EOR's location probably is incorrect, so I checked where I think I found the plant in 1969. The habitat threatened by river entrenchment and is generally less suitable because of woody plant succession. This plant is not easy to spot.
				May be present	
<i>Platanthera flava</i> var. <i>flava</i>	001-B	Johnson	South of Heron Pond in sec. 31	Not found	The habitat is intact. This plant is not easy to spot.
				May be present	
<i>Poa alsodes</i>	001	Jackson	Fern Rocks Nature Preserve	Not found	The habitat is intact. I found only <i>Poa sylvestris</i> , which is quite similar to <i>P. alsodes</i> .
				Probably not present	
<i>Puccinellia pallida</i>	001	Union	LaRue-Pine Hills LaRue Swamp, sec. 21	Found	The habitat may be declining because of woody plant succession.
<i>Puccinellia pallida</i>	002	Union	LaRue-Pine Hills LaRue Swamp, sec. 9	Not found	The site was not searched thoroughly. There is plenty of habitat, and the species occurs nearby.
				Probably present	

Species	EO no.	County	Location	Species found?	Notes about habitat, population, management, etc.
<i>Pycnanthemum albescens</i>	001	Union	LaRue-Pine Hills	Not found	I think that I would have found the species if it were present. The habitat has declined because of woody plant succession.
				Probably not present	
<i>Quercus nuttallii</i>	002	Pulaski	Section 8 Woods	Not found	I may have found the trees that are reported by the EOR, but I could not confirm that they are <i>Q. nuttallii</i> .
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	004	Johnson	Cache River near Heron Pond	Not found	The site is destroyed by river entrenchment.
				Not present	
<i>Styrax americana</i>	004-A	Johnson	Heron Pond	Found	The population has declined substantially because of woody plant succession.
<i>Styrax americana</i>	004-B	Johnson	Slough south of Heron Pond	Found	Plenty of plants occur in fair habitat (mostly too shady for flowering).
<i>Styrax americana</i>	005	Pulaski	Section 8 Woods	Found	Plenty of plants occur in good to fair habitat (mostly too shady for flowering).
<i>Styrax americana</i>	NEW	Johnson	Little slough south of Heron Pond, north of RR in sec. 31	Found	Plenty of plants occur in fair habitat (too shady for flowering).
<i>Styrax americana</i>	NEW	Johnson	Little slough south of Heron Pond, south of RR in sec. 31	Found	Plenty of plants occur in fair habitat (too shady for flowering).
<i>Styrax americana</i>	NEW	Johnson	Series of little sloughs north of Heron Pond in sec. 30	Found	Two plants were found in what appears to be ideal habitat. The site is threatened by gullying from river entrenchment.
<i>Styrax americana</i>	NEW	Johnson	Slough north of Heron Pond in sec. 19	Found	A few plants occur in good habitat.
<i>Styrax americana</i>	NEW	Johnson	Wet depression northwest of Heron Pond in sec. 24	Found	One plant occurs in good habitat.

Species	EO no.	County	Location	Species found?	Notes about habitat, population, management, etc.
<i>Styrax americana</i>	NEW	Johnson	Little slough near the outlet of Little Black Slough	Found	A few plants occur in fair habitat (too shady for flowering).
<i>Tomanthera auriculata</i>	025	Jackson	DeSoto RR Prairie	Not found May no longer be present	The habitat has been almost all eliminated by woody plant invasion, except for a limited area that is being managed as a Nature Preserve.