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Production Conservation of the group *Piperia* (Orchidaceae)

This presentation will focus on conservation experiences of rare *Piperia* taxa in California, and will highlight the successes and some failures to conserve them. Additional information will be presented that will be useful for the conservation of most orchids, especially terrestrial taxa. *Piperia* contains nine recognized species and two subspecies, and has been placed as a subgenus of *Platanthera* (Bateman et al. 2003). The overall distribution of *Piperia* is fairly large and the group ranges from Baja California, Mexico to Alaska, and to the north-east with a single population in Newfoundland, Canada. Many *Piperia* have limited distributions with populations that are small and disjunct. *Piperia* populations have recently been more fragmented due to human activities such as agriculture, human population expansion, and introduction of noxious weeds. This presentation will focus on production of conservation plans for *Piperia* and the methods used for conservation such as population and individual counts, identifying threats to populations, and mitigation measures to ensure the continued existence of these taxa. The involvement of native plant societies along with state and federal government agencies that designate the conservation status of these orchids will also be discussed. The discussion will also include some preliminary molecular data used to correctly identify the taxa.