



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Klamath National Forest and Partners celebrate Wildflowers and International Migratory Bird Day

The Klamath National Forest and partners will sponsor two special events during the Mother's Day weekend, celebrated this year May 9 -10. A migratory bird day field trip will be led by wildlife biologists on Saturday in Montague, and the 16<sup>th</sup> annual wildflower show will be held at the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds on May 10.

Thousands of people celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) each year on the second Saturday in May to focus attention on one of the most important events in the life of a migratory bird – its journey between its summer and winter homes. IMBD was established to highlight the migration of nearly 350 species of migratory birds between nesting habitats in North America and South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean.

Migratory birds are known as harbingers of spring, but they are also an economic resource that controls insect pests and generates tourism revenue. IMBD is also celebrated in Canada, Mexico and Central America with festivals and education programs. The annual event was created by Partners in Flight (PIF), an organization that includes individuals, government agencies, conservation organizations, businesses and schools. The PIF website is located at: [www.pwrc.usgs.gov/PIF](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/PIF).

The bird watching field trip on May 9 will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Shasta Valley Wildlife Area. Participants will meet at the Shasta Valley Wildlife Area Office parking lot in Montague, and are encouraged to bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and their lunch. The outing is sponsored by the Klamath National Forest, California Department of Fish and Game, and Klamath Bird Observatory. The field trip will be led by local biologists and birding experts. For more information, contact Sam Cuenca, 530-468-1207.

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The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildflower Show is sponsored by the Klamath and Shasta-Trinity National Forests, and the Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. It will be held on Sunday, May 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds, 1712 Fairlane Road, Yreka. Admission is free.

The variation in local weather conditions provides a different collection of plants from Siskiyou County each year, which is why our region has developed an international reputation for its diverse and unique blend of plants. Hundreds of native plants will be on display, including flowers, shrubs, trees, mosses, ferns, lichens, grasses, and weeds, many of which are found only in the Klamath region.

Exhibit staff will be on hand to answer questions about the local flowers and plant life and promote the importance of conservation and management of native plants and their habitats. Exhibits will include baskets made from native plants and a weaving demonstration. Information about native plant gardening, weed control, and a variety of plant-related topics will be available as handouts, including the wildflower coloring book for the kids.

Come vote for your favorite flower! Books, posters, and wildflower art will be available for sale, along with some items at no charge courtesy of the Celebrating Wildflowers program of the Forest Service. Flowers will be given away at the end of the show. For more information, contact Marla Knight, 530-468-1238.

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