

Oral presentation

Sustainable harvesting protocols and case studies of *Actea racemosa* and *Ligusticum porterii*

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Introduction. Since 2000, the Medicinal Plant Working Group, a national interagency, multi-stakeholder partnership has worked to define the issues, to identify impediments to NTFP management, recommend actions to overcome obstacles, and to involve appropriate stakeholders to overcome obstacles. The MPWG Conservation Committee has coordinated sustainable harvesting studies in NC, VA and CO on *Actea racemosa* and *Ligusticum porterii*, respectively. After 6 years of data collection, we have identified the strengths and weaknesses of a volunteer project and preliminary sustainable percentages to be harvested. Good Collection Practice policies recently written will also be included in this presentation.

Objectives. To establish a multiagency and public forum for data of sustainable harvesting of NTFPs.

Methods. 1. To set multiple plots in wild collection areas that mimic wild harvesters collection systems. 2. To count, measure and harvest variable percentages of plants of interest within these plots for multiple years. 3. Collate data.

Results. 1. Volunteer program protocols 2. Protocols of sustainable harvesting studies. 3. Percentages of harvested plants that are sustainable.

Conclusion. Volunteer data collection can be valuable, but concerns exist that make the data weak. However, the preliminary numbers are relevant in establishing public policy and collection habits for commercial users. The percentage of the plants of interest that are sustainable.

Keywords: citizen science, wild plant collection,

Selected References

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