

Grass Identification Workshop, John Day - Burns, Oregon

Date: July 6-7, 2022

Location:

Day 1: Parish Cabin Campground or nearby, Malheur National Forest, Oregon

Day 2: Northern Great Basin Experimental Range, Burns, Oregon

[Field sites are subject to change, based on seasonal variables and availability of grasses on site. Participants will be informed of any changes prior to the workshop start date.]

The workshop will briefly review grass morphology and terms, but the main focus will be in keying fresh grass specimens in the field using a hand lens. We will work with grasses on site as well as some brought in from other sites. This will provide a wider scope for characters encountered in the keys and give students the confidence to increase their repertoire of grasses on their own after the workshop. We will also identify the grasses by vegetative characters, which is useful at grazed sites or outside the growing season. Our textbook, the *Field Guide to Grasses of Oregon and Washington*, was published in 2019 by OSU Press. The Field Guide includes all Poaceae species growing outside cultivation in Oregon and Washington. It may be purchased from the authors with the workshop registration, at local bookstores, on the OSU Press website (<https://osupress.oregonstate.edu/book/field-guide-to-grasses-of-oregon-and-washington>), at Barnes and Noble, or Amazon books.

This workshop is useful to anyone who needs (or wants) to be able to identify the components of the environment that belong to the grass family. It can be a refresher for long-past education or a start for beginners with some botany experience. Workshop participants should have basic plant identification skills, willingness to learn to perceive small features and patience for using keys featuring minor or overlapping differences. Because this course does not have a laboratory component, participants should review the material on grass terminology and morphology (vegetative parts and reproductive structures) on the website before coming to the workshop, starting with <https://www.grassesandmore.net/grass-morphology-vegetative-parts>

The workshop will be taught by Dr. Cindy Roché, assisted by Robert Korfhage. Dr. Roché has been working with grasses for over 40 years, starting as a range conservationist with the Forest Service in northeastern Washington. She has BS and MS degrees from WSU and a PhD from UI in plant science. She was an illustrator for the grass volumes for the Flora of North America, and as a field botany contractor and herbarium volunteer with the BLM and Forest Service.

Plan to Bring for the workshop:

1. A copy of the *Field Guide to Grasses of Oregon and Washington*.
2. A hand lens, small ruler, dissecting tools, small notebook and tape for attaching samples in the notebook. A day pack or vest with lots of pockets can be useful to avoid losing tools. Your notes can serve as a valuable reminder to keep with the field guide.
3. Snacks, lunch, water, sun protection (including a hat), wear sturdy shoes or boots.
4. Something to sit on, such as a light, portable camp chair or stool, a blanket, or a piece of closed cell foam. Some students have brought a 5-gallon bucket to turn upside down and sit on. This is optional, but following a key in a book while holding a grass sample and hand lens is much easier if one is sitting and can lay some of the items down part of the time. We may have the use of picnic tables at some sites.