

Moscow Mountain Field Trip

Tom Besser and Lisa Morris

Idaho Native Plant Society, Whitepine Chapter

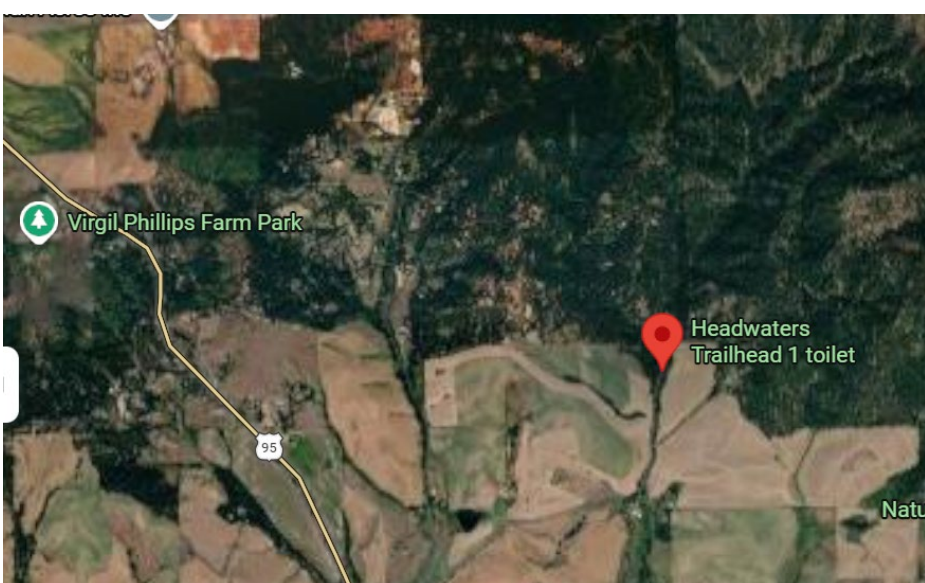
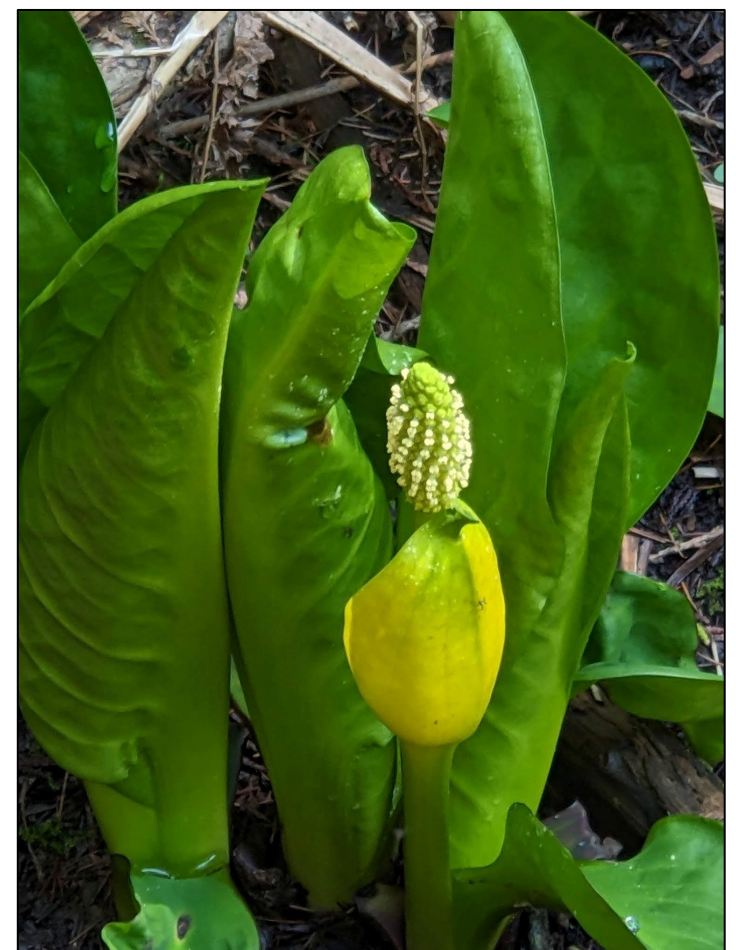
11 am - 3 pm PDT, Saturday May 30, 2026



First, at 11 am, Tom Besser will lead a tour of his Palouse Prairie reconstruction project. Eighty plus years after the original prairie was plowed and converted to wheat farming, the 3.5-acre parcel was seeded with native Palouse Prairie seeds (including 15 forb and 7 bunchgrass species initially, with additional species seeded since). This is the project's 9th growing season. See the results and imagine how the entire Palouse region would have looked 150 years ago!

The walk to and around the prairie will be mowed, but the path has some slopes, and footing will be uneven in places so walking sticks may be useful. Expect some ticks to be present; we recommend wearing long pants and tucking pants legs into socks.

Second, around 1pm, Lisa Morris will lead a plant walk up along the creek on the Headwaters Trail. We'll have time for a quick trailhead lunch between these excursions (12:30-1). From the trailhead we will walk up Foothills road past the mailboxes and take the gated, left-hand road. The area was logged a few years back, so the road still has some rather large gravel making footing uneven. After about a half mile, we'll turn right onto the Headwaters trail. In another half mile, we'll be along the creek marveling at the biomass, aroma, and yellow blooms of Western skunk cabbage. Many other low elevation plants can be seen as we walk but, given the oddity of this year, who knows what will be in bloom. If you want to turn around at this point, there is a small loop trail farther from the creek that you could come down along and see different plants. This would total roughly 2 miles. A second turn around, could be Headwaters Landing with the possibility of seeing conifer broomrape early in its season. This would total about 4 miles. Depending on the interest and speed of participants, the leader will choose between the first two options. The entire Headwaters loop is about 5.5 miles and, after notifying the leader, participants could choose to complete the loop on their own.



Carpoolers can meet at the north end of the Moscow Rosauers parking lot at 10:45. Or, drive directly to and park at the south end of the MAMBA Headwaters trailhead on Foothill Rd.

https://maps.app.goo.gl/gNC5ad3HbwuFpk5A9?g_st=ac