

## Zimlinghaus, Kevin -FS

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**From:** Bates, Thomas O -FS  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2018 11:18 AM  
**To:** Zimlinghaus, Kevin -FS  
**Subject:** RE: Orchids

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Kevin,

While the author is correct that most of the orchids that grow on the ARP do not transplant well and could be extirpated from a site by removal of topsoil. Fire can be a hazard or benefit depending on the severity to the soil. Neither Pink fairy slipper (*Calypso bulbosa*), nor clustered or purple lady's slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*) are protected under the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List. They are considered to be secure throughout they're range as well as within the planning area of the Boulder Ranger District. Design criteria to protect the soil resources will also protect the conditions necessary for these orchids to survive. There may be individuals of each species that are impacted by the project but it is not expected to cause a trend toward federal listing. Clustered lady's slipper was on the R2 Sensitive Species list but was removed years ago after a review of known populations determined it to be secure region wide.

In response to the FS wildflowers page (<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/beauty/cypripedium/index.shtml>); transplanting or harvesting of any plant from the national forest is not allowed (without a permit), there are no specific regulations protecting these two species any more than any other for our forest nor the Rocky Mountain Region. I'm leaving for the next couple days, but will be happy to speak with you about this next week, if need be.

Cheers,  
Tom



**Thomas O. Bates**  
**Botanist**

**Forest Service**  
**Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forest and Pawnee National Grassland, Supervisor's Office**

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**Caring for the land and serving people**

"Ecosystems are not only more complex than you think,  
they're more complex than you *can* think." - Jack Ward Thomas

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**From:** Zimlinghaus, Kevin -FS  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2018 8:32 AM  
**To:** Bates, Thomas O -FS <[tobates@fs.fed.us](mailto:tobates@fs.fed.us)>  
**Cc:** Zimlinghaus, Kevin -FS <[kzimlinghaus@fs.fed.us](mailto:kzimlinghaus@fs.fed.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: Orchids

Hey Tom,

In working with the Multiparty Monitoring Group for Forsythe II, we have had some concerns about orchids in the units we are laying out this summer to be implemented in 2019. I'm not familiar with the species that are mentioned below, but do we have concerns about them and should we be excluding these areas during layout? Thanks.  
Kevin

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**From:** Chambers,Marin [<mailto:Marin.Chambers@colostate.edu>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 12, 2018 9:28 AM  
**To:** Zimlinghaus, Kevin -FS <[kzimlinghaus@fs.fed.us](mailto:kzimlinghaus@fs.fed.us)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Orchids

FYI

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**From:** [dising3@aol.com](mailto:dising3@aol.com) <[dising3@aol.com](mailto:dising3@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 11, 2018 10:09 PM  
**To:** Chambers,Marin; [jimcowart@gmail.com](mailto:jimcowart@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Orchids

There are lots of USDA Forest Service protected orchids blooming right now in and around the Phase 1 cut units.

Orchids of the Deep Woods

For thousand of years people have been intrigued by orchid flowers. We are lucky in Nederland to have several species of wild orchids blooming right now. The deep, rich, moist spruce, fir and lodgepole pine forests around us are full of millions of thread-like roots connecting trees with orchids and mushrooms, a perfect environment for these beautiful flowers. Thinning, cutting, and burning can destroy this ecosystem and these orchid patches for many years to come and make our forests more susceptible to disease, insects, and wildfire.

Fairy slipper (*Calypso bulbosa*) is highly susceptible to even slight disturbances in its environment. Trampling and picking are the primary reasons for its rapid decline in some locations. A decline in the frequency of fairy slipper caused the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources to list fairy slipper as a species vulnerable to extinction on a global scale. Transplanting or cultivating fairy slipper is rarely successful because of fairy slipper's need for specific soil fungi that are not present on transplant sites. Although the fairy slipper is widespread in its distribution, population extermination is conceivable if plants are not considered within a management plan. (USDA Forest Service FEIS)

For centuries *Cypripedium* species have been sought after and collected not only for their unique beauty but also for the medicinal trade. Widespread collection, attempts at transplantation, and loss of habitat have drastically reduced their numbers. Wild lady's slippers have special requirements that make them difficult to cultivate, and rarely survive transplanting from the wild. Because of that, on federal lands it is illegal to dig or pick the orchids. Currently the U.S. Forest Service protects *C. fasciculatum* on all National Forests where the orchid occurs. (USDA Forest Service Wildflowers) This orchid is rare in Colorado. Care should be taken when around these orchids as they are only known from just a few locations. (Native Orchids of Colorado)