

**Macoun's Meadowfoam – *Limnanthes macounii*:  
threats, protection, and recovery of a species at risk**

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Winter annuals, plants that germinate in fall or in winter and complete their life cycle in spring, are a significant phytogeographic component of the flora of lowlands in southern Vancouver Island.

On the example of Macoun's meadowfoam, the authors show the threats this species is facing and compare its extinction rates under various property managements. One of the threats is the so-called "stochastic extinction" – cases when the meadowfoam sites were accidentally destroyed by people who were not aware of its occurrence there. This type of destruction can be eliminated by protecting sites in special protection areas, such as parks, ecological reserves or – in lesser degree – by protective covenants, and by educating general public. The other, universal threat to meadowfoam populations is the competition of introduced plants, mainly the perennial grasses. Introduced plant species often represent more than 50% of all the species on the meadowfoam sites. Since Macoun's meadowfoam and similar native annuals are poor competitors, their survival in this area depends on a moderate anthropogenic disturbance of their habitats that would eliminate the competition of introduced plants.