

# Hart Prairie



Lupinus argenteus, Hymenoxys hoopseii, Penstemon barbatus, Gentiana rusbyi

**Hart Prairie is one of the larger high mountain meadow areas on the west flank of the San Francisco Peaks, northwest of Flagstaff. It is surrounded by aspen forest, with mixed conifer on the steeper slopes above. Several springs and a seasonal stream support a mountain wetland plant community running through the meadow, including the southernmost and driest large stand of Bebb Willows (*Salix bebbiana*) in North America.**



## Management & Location

The Nature Conservancy manages a 245 acre preserve in the heart of the meadow, which is accessed via USFS Rd. #151, north off of Highway 180 as it heads northwest from Flagstaff. TNC is working on a cooperative joint management plan with the surrounding Coconino National Forest to restore natural processes in Hart Prairie, with the aim to reverse historical human impacts and increase overall forest health. Hiking is relatively easy throughout much of the gentle terrain. With the exception of a few trails and dirt roads, much of the exploration will be cross-country. See attached topographic map of the area on the second page.

## 2010 Season Goals & Parameters

A working list based on observations in the area contains close to 300 species of vascular plants, of which 135 were documented with voucher collections during the 2009 season, including 3 previously undocumented species. The study area has been expanded for 2010 to include most of the surrounding USFS lands between Rd. # 151 on the west and the wilderness area boundary (Arizona Trail) on the east, including both Fern Mountain and Bismarck Lake. It will take several more years to



fully cover the new area, and many trips this season will still focus on the immediate area around the TNC preserve.

## Coordinating botanist and contact for trip schedules & plant list:

Keri Stiverson: [KStiverson@mna.mus.az.us](mailto:KStiverson@mna.mus.az.us)

928-774-5211 ext. 216 (w)

2010 Group Trip Dates: 6/19, 7/17, 8/14, 9/18, 10/16