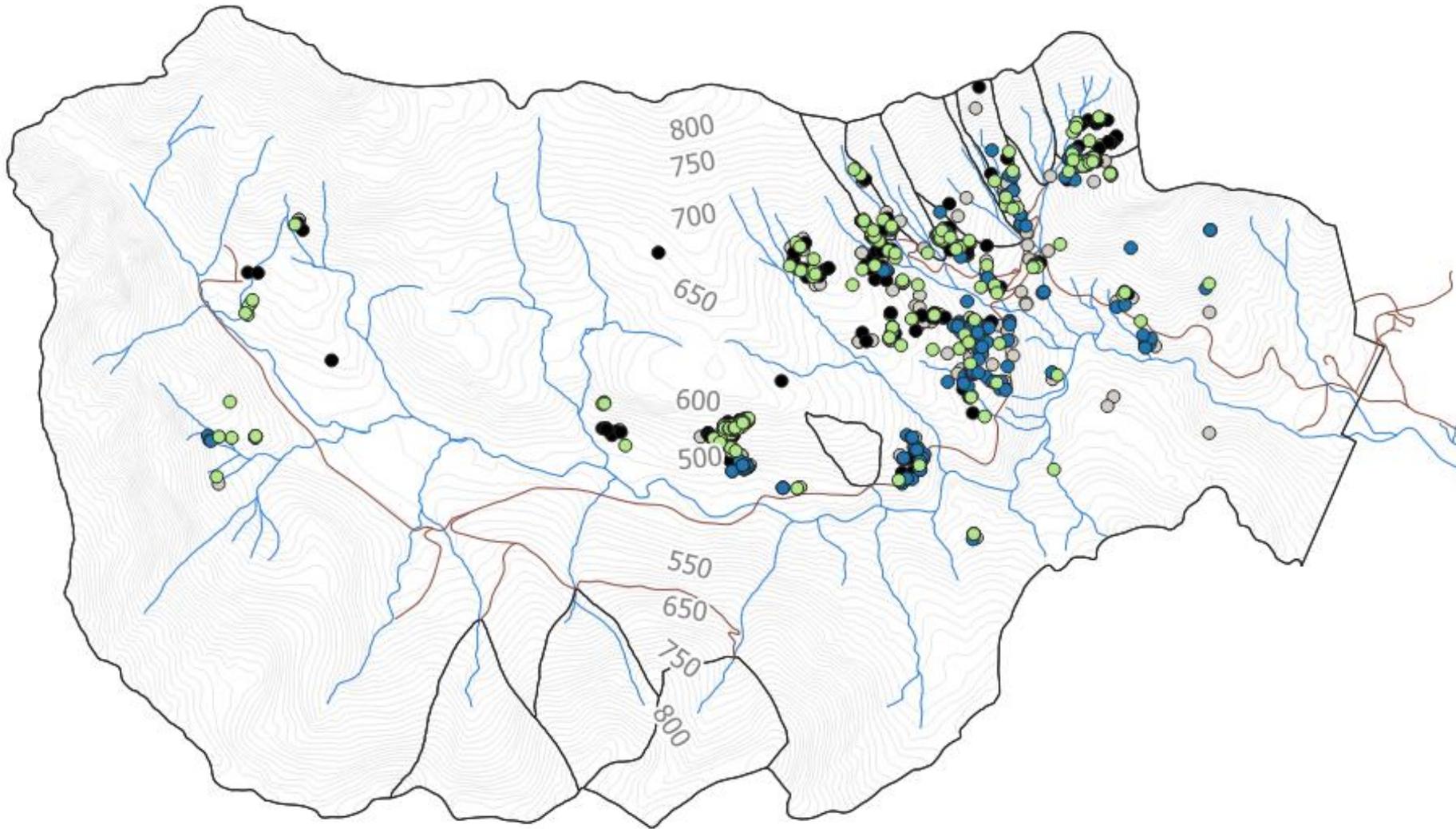


Round-leaved orchid demography



Round-leaved orchids in the valley have been marked individually and tracked since 2011. Our populations include the recognized species *Platanthera orbiculata* (black dots), *P. macrophylla* (blue dots), their hybrids (green dots) and young individuals whose identity is not yet known (gray dots). The orchids are much more abundant on south-facing slopes and *P. macrophylla* tends to occur at the lower elevation sites.

Round-leaved orchids are marked with bright pink PVC flags. The flowering individuals are more obvious than the one leaf or non-flowering two leaf individuals. We have marked over 1600 individuals; however, they are not all still alive. The orchids are eaten by white tailed deer from above and rodents below, similar to the red trillium, but even more damaging for the orchids. Therefore, starting in 2016 a select number of flowering orchids are protected with cages. Deer pressure is particularly marked in the area of the birder mid-grid and downslope to the HB road. We are also conducting cross pollination experiments and are growing the orchids from the resulting seeds for eventually reintroduction into their parent populations.

Please, **keep a respectful distance from the pink flags** since young orchids can be small and unobvious. The orchids are easily damaged particularly because they only have one or two leaves to begin with. We welcome the reporting of new orchid sightings with GPS locations – when possible. Our current estimate is that we are tracking about 85% of the true population in the valley.



Fruit set



Baby orchids in lab



1 leaf



P. macrophylla
protected in a cage



P. orbiculata on
right and hybrid
on left