

Mentzelia mollis M. E. Peck**SMOOTH STICKLEAF**

FAMILY: *Loasaceae*, the stick-leaf family.

STATUS: **Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G2 S1**

USFWS/ESA: species of concern. **STATE OF NEVADA:** none. **BLM:** Special Status Species in Nevada.

USFS: none. **NNNPS:** watch list.

POPULATION CENSUS (NEVADA): **2 occurrences mapped;** total estimated **individuals 450**, total estimated **area 129 ha (319 ac)**. **TREND:** unknown.

IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS (NEVADA): Mineral exploration and development.

INVENTORY EFFORT (NEVADA): Surveys in Nevada have been extensive but likely remain incomplete. Most recent entered survey 1994, average year of last survey 1994. **Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **6-10 yrs:** 100%.

LAND MANAGEMENT (NEVADA): U. S. Bureau of Land Management.

RANGE: Humboldt County, Nevada; also in ID and OR. Maximum Nevada **range dimension 5.8 km (3.6 mi)**.

ELEVATIONS RECORDED (NEVADA): 4360-5250 feet (1329-1600 meters).

HABITAT (NEVADA): Dry, open, nearly barren, eroding shoulder and side slopes of brightly colored shrink-swell clay badlands formed by hydrothermal alteration and weathering of air-fall volcanic ash deposits, on all aspects with a very sparse cover of other annuals such as *Monolepis pusilla*, *Mentzelia albicaulis*, *Cleomella macbrideana*, and *Phacelia humilis*.

PHENOLOGY: flowering spring. Range of most frequent **survey months:** May.

LIFE-FORM AND HABIT: small annual.

DESCRIPTION: An erect, bright yellow-flowered, annual herb, 5-12 cm high, that blooms in May and June.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Holland (1994); Nevada Natural Heritage Program slide collection (1986-present) and files.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Meinke (1982).

SPECIFIC REFERENCES:

Glad, J. B. 1975. Taxonomy and ecology of *Mentzelia mollis* Peck and related species. Corvallis: Oregon State University, M. S. thesis.

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Holland, R. F. 1994. Status report for *Mentzelia mollis* Peck (1945). Carson City: Nevada Natural Heritage Program, prepared for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno.

Rosentreter, R. 1986. Sensitive and uncommon plants in the Boise District Bureau of Land Management. Boise, Idaho: Bureau of Land Management Technical Bulletin. 87 pages.

Steele, B., F. Johnson, and S. Brunfield (editors). 1981. Vascular plant species of concern in Idaho. Moscow, Idaho: Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station. 161 pages.

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OF FURTHER INTEREST: Distinct species, in a small genus.
