

Cryptantha welshii Thorne & Higgins (1982)**WHITE RIVER CATSEYE**

FAMILY: *Boraginaceae*, the forget-me-not family.

STATUS: **Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G3 S3**

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

NNNPS: watch list.

POPULATION CENSUS: **35 occurrences mapped** at 1.0 km (0.6 mi) separation, **OR 40 occurrences mapped** at 0.16 km (0.1 mi) separation; total estimated **individuals 44,000+**, total estimated **area 354+ ha (875+ ac)**. **TREND:** unknown.

IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS: The species appears to tolerate or even increase with transient disturbances within its habitat, such as animal trampling and roadside maintenance. Other than occasional habitat loss from road building or other conversion, no impacts are known.

INVENTORY EFFORT: Systematic surveys have been conducted, but much potential habitat likely remains to be examined. Most recent entered survey 1994, average year of last survey 1993.

Years since last entered survey (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **6-10 yrs:** 90%; **11-20 yrs:** 2.5%; **21-30 yrs:** 7.5%.

LAND MANAGEMENT in decreasing predominance: U. S. Bureau of Land Management, Nevada state lands, private lands.

RANGE: Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine counties, Nevada. **Nevada endemic.** Maximum **range dimension 142.2 km (88.4 mi)** excluding most disjunct record. **Type specimen** collected in Nye County.

ELEVATIONS RECORDED: 4540-6660 feet (1384-2030 meters).

HABITAT: Dry, open, sparsely vegetated outcrops, and derived sandy to silty or clay soils, of whitish calcareous or carbonate deposits, often forming knolls or gravelly hills, and on soils adjacent to such habitats, mostly in Juniperus - Artemisia - Chrysothamnus vegetation with Artemisia pygmaea, Stenotus acaulis, Eriogonum shockleyi, Hymenopappus filifolius, Physaria, Erigeron compactus, Enceliopsis nudicaulis, Lepidium nanum, L. montanum, Linum perenne, Stanleya pinnata, Hilaria jamesii, Astragalus calycosus, Leucelene ericoides, Phlox tumulosa, Frasera albomarginata, etc.

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

LIFE-FORM AND HABIT: biennial or short-lived perennial herb.

DESCRIPTION: A biennial or short-lived perennial, up to 3 dm tall, with several hairy stems. Produces white flowers in early summer.

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

ILLUSTRATIONS: Cronquist et al. (1984), Thorne and Higgins (1982).

SPECIFIC REFERENCES:

Smith, F. J. 1994. Status report for *Cryptantha welshii* Thorne and Higgins (1982). Carson City: Nevada Natural Heritage Program, prepared for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno.

Thorne, K. H. and L. C. Higgins. 1982. A new species of *Cryptantha* (Boraginaceae) from Nevada. Great Basin Naturalist 42: 196-198.
