

***Eriogonum ovalifolium* Nuttall var. *williamsiae* Reveal (1981)****STEAMBOAT BUCKWHEAT**

**FAMILY:** *Polygonaceae*, the buckwheat family.

**STATUS:** **Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G5 T1 S1**

**USFWS/ESA:** LISTED ENDANGERED. **STATE OF NEVADA:** FULLY PROTECTED. **BLM:** Special Status Species. **USFS:** none. **NNNPS:** ENDANGERED.

**POPULATION CENSUS:** 1 occurrence mapped; total estimated individuals 200,000, total estimated area 51.4 ha (127 ac). **TREND:** DECLINING OR STABLE.

**IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS:** Geothermal exploration and development, highway construction and maintenance, private development, competition with tall whitetop (*Lepidium latifolium*) and other invasive weeds, flood erosion from breaches in Steamboat Ditch, alteration of spring flows via regional groundwater pumping and other water diversions, impacts to pollinator populations.

**INVENTORY EFFORT:** Inventory and mapping essentially complete. Most recent entered survey 2000.

**Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **0-5 yrs:** 100%.

**LAND MANAGEMENT** in decreasing predominance: Nevada state lands, private lands, U. S. Bureau of Land Management, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (?).

**RANGE:** Washoe County, Nevada. **Nevada endemic.** **Type specimen** collected in Washoe County.

**ELEVATIONS RECORDED:** 4565-4720 feet (1391-1439 meters).

**HABITAT:** Young, shallow, poorly-developed, dry soils derived from siliceous opaline sinter precipitated by past thermal spring flows, but not currently near surface water, in open areas with sparse *Atriplex confertifolia*, *Sarcobatus vermiculatus*, *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*, etc. Sometimes found on adjacent deeper and/or disturbed soils when competitive vegetation is lacking. Dependent on wetland margin areas.

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

**LIFE-FORM AND HABIT:** semi-woody long-lived perennial cushion.

**DESCRIPTION:** Low compact perennial cushions forming mounds to 4.5 dm wide and 2.5 dm high, from shallow fibrous roots and a short, stout, woody taproot; overall color greenish gray with balls of light pink to reddish flowers; root crown much branched, woody; flowering stems mostly upright.

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Nevada Natural Heritage Program images web page (1998-present), slide collection (1986-present), and files. **ILLUSTRATIONS:** Mozingo and Williams (1980).

**OTHER GENERAL REFERENCES** (listed separately): Reveal (1985).

**SPECIFIC REFERENCES:**

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- Minor, T., T. Wade, and J. Bair. 1997. Development of a habitat map for Steamboat buckwheat (*Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *williamsiae*). Reno: Desert Research Institute, unpublished draft report prepared for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Nelson, L. S. 1991. Survey for Steamboat buckwheat, *Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *williamsiae* at Steamboat Springs, Nevada. Carson City: Nevada Natural Heritage Program, unpublished report in files.
- Reveal, J. L. 1981. Notes on endangered buckwheats (*Eriogonum*: *Polygonaceae*) with three newly described from the western U. S. *Brittonia* 33: 441-448.
- Sorey, M. L. and E. M. Colvard. 1992. Factors affecting the decline in hot-spring activity in the Steamboat Springs area of Critical Environmental Concern, Washoe County, Nevada. Menlo Park, California: U. S. Geological Survey, administrative report for the Bureau of Land Management.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1986. Determination of endangered status for *Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *williamsiae*. *Federal Register* 51(130): 24669-24671.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1995. Steamboat buckwheat (*Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *williamsiae*) recovery plan. Portland, Oregon.
- Williams, M. J. 1982. Status report on *Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *williamsiae*. Portland, Oregon: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**OF FURTHER INTEREST:** Closely related to other varieties of *Eriogonum ovalifolium*.

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