

NORTHERN NEVADA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Rare Plant Committee Meeting
NEVADA RARE PLANT WORKSHOP
6 April 1999, Las Vegas

1999 MEETING NOTES

<http://heritage.nv.gov/notes99.htm>

The following notes were compiled by Kris Kuyper, Jim Holland, and Jim Morefield during the 1999 Nevada Rare Plant Workshop. Please notify Jim Morefield (775/684-2902, [jdmore \[at\] heritage \[dot\] nv \[dot\] gov](mailto:jdmore@heritage.nv.gov), 901 S Stewart Street, suite 5002, Carson City, NV 89701-5245) of any needed additions or corrections. **Any changes to the original version are shown in bold face.**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The 1999 Nevada Rare Plant Workshop convened in Las Vegas on Thursday, 6 April 1999, just after 9:00 am, at McCarran International Airport. The meeting was co-sponsored by the [Northern Nevada Native Plant Society](#) (NNNPS) and the [Nevada Natural Heritage Program](#) (NVNHP), and was chaired by Jim Morefield. Jim thanked all for their attendance, Kris Kuyper and Jim Holland for volunteering to keep meeting notes, Wes Niles and the University of Nevada Las Vegas for arranging and helping purchase the catered refreshments, and John Jones and McCarran International Airport for arranging and providing our meeting room.

The lunch schedule was set, and there was a discussion of the frequency of the meetings. The meetings are held on an annual basis. At least every 3rd year they will be held in Las Vegas on the first Tuesday of April, and other years in Reno on the first Thursday of April. The dates were chosen to accommodate NNNPS meetings. An effort will be made to hold future meetings in respective airports. If an off-site location is chosen, (*e.g.*, BLM/USFWS meeting room, NDEP conference room) carpooling from the airport will be coordinated on the web site. Next year's meeting will occur on Thursday, April 6, 2000, in Reno.

After setting the lunch schedule for the meeting, introductions proceeded around the room. In attendance during all or part of the day were 33 participants: Kelly Amsberry and Bob Meinke (Oregon State University); Dave Anderson and Kent Ostler (Bechtel Nevada); Steve Anderson, Elizabeth Bergstrom, John Brack, Kerwin Dewberry, Sara Mayben, and Teresa Prendusi (U.S. Forest Service); Janet Bair and Jody Sawasaki (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service); Kristen Bardeen and Holly Williams (Southern Nevada Water Authority); John Bare (Nevada Power Company); Kathryn Birgy, Mary Bonine, Wes Niles, Lloyd Stark, and Jason Williams (University of Nevada, Las Vegas); Glenn Clifton (Eco Systems West); Barbara Ertter (University of California, Berkeley); Hermi Hiatt (Red Rock Audubon Society); Jim Holland (National Park Service, Lake Mead NRA); John Jones (Nevada Division of Forestry); Teri Knight and Jan Nachlinger (The Nature Conservancy); David Kuntz (BRRC, University of Nevada, Reno); Kris Kuyper (EMA); Dawn Leaper (Dames & Moore); Patrick Leary (Community College of Southern Nevada); and Tim Rash (Bureau of Land Management).

PROGRAM UPDATES

[Nevada Test Site](#): Kent Ostler and Dave Anderson of Bechtel Nevada gave an update on survey work for *Astragalus oophorus* var. *clokeyanus*. A report summarizing the results of three years of survey work on the distribution of *A. o.* var. *clokeyanus* was recently published. A distribution map was handed out for the 1997, 1998 survey. It's distribution is more extensive than previously thought and its range is larger. A population was discovered at Captain Jack Spring, at an elevation lower than where it normally occurs. The surveyors found more ovules toward the north, which could represent clinal variation. Ovule number is a key factor in

separating var. *clokeyanus* from var. *oophorus*. It was removed from USFWS Candidate list in 1996, since populations in the Spring Mountains and on the test site are protected and there are more populations than were previously known. It may also be found west of test site at Montgomery Pass. Populations varied in size from 35 individuals to entire hillsides, and are largest in drainages. The biggest threat appears to be insects. No changes in status suggested. The specimen of *Opuntia whipplei* found on the Test Site is not variety *multigeniculata*. USFWS may be funding a taxonomic investigation of this variety.

[University and Jepson Herbaria, University of California, Berkeley](#): Barbara Ertter gave an overview of the concept behind the [Far West Floristic Initiative](#), and inquired as to Nevada's desire to participate in the project. It is anticipated that Washington, Idaho, Nevada, California, and Oregon will be the participating states. The main purpose of the project is to provide a venue for specialists to share data on new species before or as descriptions are published. The Flora of North America is already online. Funding is needed to digitize Intermountain Flora. A handout describing the project was provided. Each state would put in place a Board of Editors, a master taxon list, and a specialist network. The project would act as a web site clearinghouse, linking web sites maintained by specialists. The electronic infrastructure would most likely be developed in Corvallis and Berkeley. Each state would be autonomous in its own data entry. Meeting participants gave support to the concept of the project and Nevada's involvement in it.

[U.S. Forest Service, Northeast Nevada](#): Steve Anderson said the following plants are being 'looked for and found': *Jamesia tetrapetala*, *Silene nuda*, *Lewisia maguirei*, *Polycytenium williamsiae*, *Astragalus oophorus* var. *lavinii*, *A. robbinsii* var. *occidentalis*, *Primula capillaris*. They are currently monitoring populations of *Lathyrus grimesii*, *Phacelia minutissima*, *Trifolium leibergii*, and *Eriogonum lewisii* for impacts from salting for cattle. This district of the Forest Service will be losing staff that have been involved in botanical projects. Brett Glover was not in attendance because of adverse weather, but Steve talked about his activities related to noxious weed management. When Brett is working on infestation, he looks for areas of conflict with sensitive plant populations. In northeastern Nevada there are several hundred acres infested with leafy spurge, whitetop, and various thistles. Currently Elko County is not cooperating with weed infestation efforts, therefore USFS funds can't be used on lands other than federal. Noxious weeds are a new hot area of concern as they start affecting rare plant populations and habitat. Steve knows of one instance of *Lathyrus grimesii* and *Trifolium leibergii* growing with leafy spurge. Jim Morefield's recommendation was to monitor leafy spurge that is co-occurring, eradicate spurge population outside of the *L. grimesii* population. Other ideas were to collect seeds from *L. grimesii*, and to treat leafy spurge when *Lathyrus* is senescent. Brett wants to set up mitigation guidelines for people doing weed control as relates to rare plants.

[U.S. Forest Service, Intermountain Region](#): Teresa Prendusi gave an update on projects going on at the regional level, including revising the regional sensitive species list and standardizing rarity criteria. The size of the sensitive species list may triple, and the support of the regional office is questionable. It is not clear how so many species can be afforded protection, or how the list should be prioritized. If the list is limited to G1, G2, and G3 species, without including S1 and S2 species, it would be the only USFS region to do so. The revised list is expected to be released in June for field technical review, with a final draft in November to be signed by Regional Forester by end of year. Another big issue is bioprospecting - collections for pharmaceutical uses. The regional office is starting to be inundated by permit requests. Conditions under which permits will be issued have been developed at the national level and are being reviewed. Funding has been allocated for studying *Polycytenium williamsiae* and *Ivesia kingii*, and for implementing the Spring Mountains Conservation Agreement. A concern is the botanical expertise that will soon be lost in vacated positions in Nevada.

[U.S. Forest Service, Central Nevada](#): John Brack (Tonopah Ranger District) discussed current surveys for *Astragalus toquimanus*, *Arabis ophira*, and *Asclepias eastwoodiana*. Toquima milkvetch populations will be documented in 1999.

[U.S. Forest Service, Western Nevada](#): Elizabeth Bergstrom gave an update on the *Ivesia webberi* conservation

agreement and a project for *Arabis rectissima* var. *simulans*. An off-road management plan for Peavine Mountain means survey work for *Ivesia webberi*.

[U.S. Forest Service, Spring Mountains](#): Kerwin Dewberry gave updates on draft reports for *Angelica scabrida* and *Astragalus aequalis*. Current projects include seed collection, trail relocations, spring enclosures for *Cirsium clokeyi*, and an inventory for rare plants and butterflies.

[Mojave Native Plant Society](#): Teri Knight announced the dissolution of the Mojave Native Plant Society in 1998. Remaining funds were donated to NNNPS in the memory of Jeanne Janish.

[The Nature Conservancy \(TNC\)](#): Teri Knight discussed a study underway on *Penstemon bicolor*, surveys on the Nellis Bombing Range, and submission of collected material from previous survey work to UNLV. Jan Nachlinger gave an introduction to TNC's Ecoregional Planning Effort. It involves both private and public lands and 4 ecoregions in Nevada (Columbia Plateau, Great Basin, Mojave, and Sierra Nevada). A representative portfolio of sites for protection will be developed for each ecoregion. Nine RNA's have been established on USFS lands since last meeting, several to protect rare species. There are two appeals from White Pine and Nye counties. Monitoring efforts in the Spring Mountains are underway for 3 high-elevation communities. TNC is developing monitoring protocols. Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot will be doing a plant inventory.

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#): Janet Bair announced her recent appointment as Assistant State Supervisor in the Las Vegas office, and the staffing of two botanist positions - one in Reno by Jody Sawasaki, and one in Las Vegas temporarily filled by Gina Glenne. Recent projects include surveys for *Arctomecon californica* and *Eriogonum corymbosum* var. *glutinosum* in Las Vegas Valley, surveys for Ash Meadows taxa, work on the Blue Diamond cholla conservation agreement, the *Arctomecon californica* agreement to protect populations in urbanizing areas, *Polycatenium williamsiae* and *P. fremontii* conservation agreements, and a *Penstemon bicolor* pollination study. *Rorippa subumbellata* is becoming a major concern in the Lake Tahoe basin. Also of concern is the Churchill Narrows buckwheat, a species soon to be described from the Silver Springs area. A synopsis of recent status surveys was included in the meeting packet. There are 12 distinct populations in 3 square mile area. Its habitat is diatomaceous clay deposits ideal for use in cat litter. Pollination studies on *Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *williamsiae* will be conducted this summer. Genetic studies are complete. Moana Nursery is donating 15 acres of habitat to The Nature Conservancy. The Nevada Division of Forestry brought a case against the resident geothermal company to the state Attorney General for unauthorized disturbance of the buckwheat. This may be a precedent setting case for endangered plant protection in NV.

[Northern Nevada Native Plant Society](#): Jan Nachlinger announced the initiation of a new small grants program for studies on Nevada flora.

[Nevada Natural Heritage Program](#): Jim Morefield discussed a new rare plant atlas almost ready to come out (funded through Section 6) in updatable looseleaf form, possibly to be distributed through NNNPS or put on the Internet. Also, the rare plant list and booklet will be updated. Various species status reports are in progress. There was a brief discussion with David Kuntz of the Southwest ReGAP project (part of the [National Gap Analysis Program](#)), which will refine the land cover and vegetation map to be used in habitat modeling and predicting high biodiversity areas in a 5-state region, including Nevada. Long-term cooperators are needed.

OLD BUSINESS: UNRESOLVED TAXA FROM PREVIOUS WORKSHOP

Phacelia lutea var. *calva*: Intermountain Flora indicates "local in n. Owyhee Co., Idaho, nw Humboldt Co., Nev., and e Malheur Co., Oregon." Known from a single site in Nevada, on Sheldon Antelope Range.

CONSENSUS: Do not add to NNNPS watch list; common in Oregon where it occurs.

Sclerocactus nyensis: Recently described from two sites near Tonopah and Warm Springs in central Nye County, taxonomically questionable because of inconsistencies in morphological descriptions. Transitional species? CONSENSUS: Add to NNNPS watch list until more is learned.

NEW BUSINESS: REVIEW AND STATUS OF SELECTED TAXA (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Abronia nana var. *covillei*: a sensitive taxon in California, with only one known occurrence in Nevada. CONSENSUS: Do not add to NNNPS watch list since it occurs on protected land in the Sheep Range and is not a big concern outside of Nevada.

Ash Meadows Taxa: Teri Knight and Janet Bair led a discussion on the status and threats to *Centaureum namophilum*, *Enceliopsis nudicaulis* var. *corrugata*, *Grindelia fraxino-pratensis*, and *Ivesia kingii* var. *eremica*. Janet stated that three of the four species may be delisted based on inventory data from last year. However, there are Russian knapweed, and yellow starthistle infestations in Ash Meadows. A recovery implementation team will be put together for the refuge by USFWS, however Ash Meadows as a refuge will not get funding to put together a plan for a few years. CONSENSUS: do not move to NNNPS watch list or recommend for state de-listing; a management plan is needed to address the weed issue before any status changes are made.

Astragalus beatleyae: There are 39 known populations and few threats since most populations are protected adequately by the DOE. CONSENSUS: Move to NNNPS watch list, recommend removal from the state endangered list. Jim Morefield will submit request to remove from the Endangered list with supporting documentation to Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF).

Astragalus mohavensis var. *hemigyryus*: Populations found in Spring Mountains in Trout Canyon and on Indian Ridge in Clark County, and one population in Lincoln County, by UNLV and BLM, who are doing additional field work. Red Rock Canyon NRA reports in BLM's GIS database undocumented, based on predicted habitat only. No change in status recommended.

Astragalus pulsiferae var. *suksdorfii*: Nevada occurrence may represent an undescribed variety. More information needed. May be more common in Nevada than in California. No changes recommended.

Eriogonum bifurcatum: Thousands of plants located in Stewart Valley, Saline Valley, Pahrump Valley on saline soils around playas by UNLV and BLM. Range includes Clark, Nye, Inyo, and San Bernardino counties. Threats include urbanization in Pahrump Valley. Populations in Sandy and Mesquite Valley are also mainly on private land. No change in status recommended due to threats.

Eriogonum corymbosum var. *glutinosum*: Name recently changed from var. *aureum*, which is now considered by James Reveal to be a narrow endemic of the St. George, Utah, area. There are 21 known populations in Las Vegas Valley. They are disjunct from the rest of its range and may be genetically distinct. Urbanization is a threat. The USFWS is working with Clark County to protect some populations.

Eustoma exaltatum: An obligate wetland species reported from 2 sites in Nevada impacted by livestock use or urban development. Widespread from California to the southeast U.S. and southward through Mexico and beyond, but never abundant. Only surviving Nevada and eastern Mojave population may be at Red Rock Springs, where endangered by livestock use. Any action may create a precedent for tracking state-rare species that are secure elsewhere, and this is a species imminently threatened with extirpation from Nevada. CONSENSUS: NNNPS should be concerned with loss of any native species from the state. Add to NNNPS Watch list. Recommend that it be added to the BLM Sensitive list. USFWS to do a rangewide status review.

Frasera pahutensis: Recently synonymized with *Frasera albicaulis* var. *modocensis*, but no information on who did this or why. Recommendation to contact James Pringle or whomever did treatment in Intermountain

Flora to clarify taxonomy.

Ivesia kingii var. *eremica*: Still considered a valid taxon by Barbara Ertter. Intermediate material may occur outside the Ash Meadows area.

Lathyrus grimesii: 57 localized populations, fewer threats from mining exploration. CONSENSUS: move from NNNPS threatened to watch list.

Lepidium montanum var. *nevadense*: There are four documented populations in NV and 1 in OR, but is likely more common along the edges of dunes in a narrow band along and southwest of Pueblo Slough, for about 15 miles in Nevada and 10 miles into Oregon. No known threats. CONSENSUS: add to NNNPS watch list; reassess recommendation to add to BLM sensitive list next year.

Lesquerella goodrichii: Known from eastern Nevada, but no specific location data are available. Three records reported from Utah, with some question about its taxonomic distinctness. CONSENSUS: no action for now; contact Stan Welsh for more information.

Lomatium roseanum: More information is needed. Listed in California and Oregon.

Nonvascular Species: Dr. Lloyd Stark of UNLV gave a presentation on 5 southern Nevada bryophyte species that are globally rare: *Trichostomum sweetii*, *Didymodon nevadensis*, *Crossidium seriatum*, *Entosthodon planoconvexus*, and *Grimmia americana*. Recommended conservation measures include recognizing breeding populations, studying genetics, and evaluating disturbance tolerance (soil crust, transplanting, recolonization). Jim Morefield recommended that all five species be on the NNNPS Watch list because of their global rarity and vulnerability. CONSENSUS: add these five species to the NNNPS watch list. Dr. Stark will pursue putting photos and maps onto the web.

Penstemon pahutensis: now known from 51 occurrences, mostly on NTS, Nellis, and Park Service lands, with few active impacts or threats. CONSENSUS: move to the NNNPS watch list.

Penstemon palmeri var. *macranthus*: known from 4+ sites in the mountains of the eastern Lahontan Basin below 5000 feet. Jerry Tiehm indicates that it is rather common in the Stillwater and Humboldt ranges. Increasing threat from nearby use of *P. palmeri* var. *palmeri* in seed mixes for revegetation, with possible consequent hybridization. CONSENSUS: add to NNNPS watch list, recommend addition to BLM Sensitive list. Also, notify BLM that the use of *P. palmeri* var. *palmeri* in revegetation seed mixes may "wash out" this rare variety through hybridization. Write a note in the NNNPS newsletter indicating that *P. palmeri* var. *palmeri* is not native to the entire state and is being spread outside of its normal range.

Penstemon sudans: Type locality near Susanville and rare in California. More information is needed. No recommendations for action now.

Perityle intricata: now known from 84 occurrences in cliff habitat, mostly on DNWR, Nellis, and NTS lands, few active impacts or threats. CONSENSUS: delete from NNNPS watch list.

Phacelia inundata: Scattered occurrences in northern Nevada on alkaline mud playas and ephemeral pools. Habitat vulnerable to grazing and ORV use. One known California occurrence. CONSENSUS: add to NNNPS watch list; reassess recommending addition to federal sensitive lists next year.

Phacelia parishii: A status survey has been done, but not reviewed. There are thousands to millions of plants occurring in several dry lake beds, but many in an area that is subject to bombing disturbance. CONSENSUS: add to NNNPS watch list.

Plagiobothrys glomeratus: based on recent work by Jerry Tiehm, appears endemic to Nevada in the Reno

area, in close association with *Eriogonum robustum* on altered andesite soils. CONSENSUS: add to NNNPS watch list; recommend addition to BLM and USFS sensitive lists.

Potentilla basaltica: Barbara Ertter confirms that it is a *Potentilla* and not an *Ivesia*.

Potentilla cottamii: Still known only from the Pilot Range. More information needed.

Primula capillaris: Status report completed a couple of years ago, with three additional populations found since. At least 8 populations now documented, mostly inaccessible, mostly protected by wilderness, and subject to no or rare livestock grazing. There are no longer any sheep permits in known habitat. CONSENSUS: move from NNNPS threatened list to the watch list; recommend removal from state endangered list. Jim will submit request to remove from the endangered list with supporting documentation to NDF.

Primula nevadensis: ten known occurrences, mostly on National Park and Wilderness Area lands. CONSENSUS: move from NNNPS threatened list to the watch list after checking for any contrary information associated with its CITES listing.

Spring Mountain Taxa: CONSENSUS: move *Antennaria soliceps*, *Arenaria kingii* ssp. *rosea*, *Astragalus aequalis*, *Draba jaegeri*, *D. paucifruca*, *Ivesia cryptocaulis*, *Silene clokeyi*, *Sphaeromeria compacta*, and *Synthyris ranunculina* to the NNNPS watch list because of increased protective management under the Spring Mountains NRA and Conservation Agreement; remove *Pedicularis semibarbata* var. *charlestonensis* from the NNNPS watch list because of its abundance.

ADJOURNED AT 4:18 PM
