



USFWS Updates

Rare Plant Symposium
September 22, 2023

Colorado



Who We Are

- USFWS's mission is “To work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”
- We administer the Endangered Species Act, which focuses on recovery and protections for species that we find to be threatened or endangered.
- We accomplish recovery with the help of partners.



T&E Plant Species in Colorado

We have 16 listed plant species in Colorado.
Many have some of the same qualities:

- Narrow Endemism
- Affinity for exposed soil types
- Affinity for places with Arid or semi-arid climates



Updates from USFWS

This year, we've been busy with:

- Colorado hookless cactus proposed delisting rule
- Start of the SSA for Osterhout milkvetch and Penland beardtongue
- 5 year review completed for Mosquito Range Mustard
- Working on a Recovery Plan for DeBeque phacelia
- Coordinating with partners on several other species

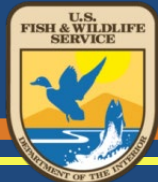


Colorado Hookless Cactus Proposed Delisting Rule

- Proposed for delisting in April 2023 based on a 5-year review and updated species status assessment.
- A major reason for proposed delisting is work done by BLM researchers on minimum population sizes.
- Public comment period was open for 60 days, and closed in June.
- Comments and new information will be incorporated before a final rule is published.



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SSA for Osterhout milkvetch and Penland Beardtongue

- Osterhout milkvetch and Penland beardtongue occupy a restricted range near Kremmling, Colorado.
- The SSA is used to evaluate current and future conditions possible for one or more species.
- Information gathering for these species with federal, state, and private partners is currently underway.



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5 Year Review for Mosquito Range Mustard

- Mosquito Range mustard lives in the high alpine and is fairly unique in our list
- The mustard is doing fairly well, but was not delisted
- Recovery criteria that have been laid out have not been met



Emily Elliott

Recovery Plan for DeBeque phacelia

- Listed in 2011, with an SSA written in 2022
- Recovery criteria in draft focus on habitat quality, stable extant populations with a large number of individuals, ex-situ seed banking, and strong regulatory mechanisms for protection
- Recovery actions focus on filling info gaps, continued monitoring, and developing a strategy for conscientious population augmentation in case of decline



Thank You to Our Partners

- Our partners drive recovery throughout the state of Colorado, and conservation could not be done without them. Thank you!



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