



AGENCY STATUS DEFINITIONS

Obtained May 2006 from the New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council at:

<http://nmrareplants.unm.edu/agency.php>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Endangered - A species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Threatened - A species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Species of Concern - A taxon for which further biological research and field study are needed to resolve their conservation status OR are considered sensitive, rare, or declining on lists maintained by Natural Heritage Programs, State wildlife agencies, other Federal agencies, or professional/academic scientific societies.

Source: Charlie McDonald, Regional Botanist, U.S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region

State of New Mexico

Endangered - The taxon is listed as threatened or endangered under the provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. Sections 1531 et seq.), or is considered proposed under the tenets of the act [10-29-85,]; or the taxon is a rare plant across its range within the state, and of such limited distribution and population size that unregulated taking could adversely impact it and jeopardize its survival in New Mexico. [10-29-85, 8-31-95]

Species of Concern - A New Mexico plant species, which should be protected from land use impacts when possible because it is a unique and limited component of the regional flora.

Sources: New Mexico Administrative Code, Title 19, Chapter 21 Part 2.8 (Criteria for inclusion of the endangered plant species list), and Robert Sivinski, State Botanist

U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

Endangered - Any species designated as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that is known to occur on national forest lands in New Mexico.

Threatened - Any species designated as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that is known to occur on national forest lands in New Mexico.

Sensitive - A species that is likely to occur or have habitat on National Forest Service System lands and that has been identified by the Regional Forester as of concern for reduction in population viability as evidenced by: significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density, or; significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce the species' distribution.

*Source: Charlie McDonald, Regional Botanist, U.S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)*

Special Status Species - Includes the following:

(1) *Proposed Species* - species that have been officially proposed for listing as threatened or endangered by the Secretary of the Interior. A proposed rule has been published in the Federal Register.

(2) *Listed Species* - species officially listed as threatened or endangered by the Secretary of the Interior under the provisions of the ESA. A final rule for the listing has been published in the Federal Register.

(A) *Endangered Species* - any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

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(B) Threatened Species - any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

(3) *Candidate Species* - species designated as candidates for listing as threatened or endangered by the FWS and/or NMFS. A list has been published in the Federal Register.

(4) *State Listed Species* - species listed by a State in a category implying but not limited to potential endangerment or extinction. Listing is either by legislation or regulation.

(5) *Sensitive Species* - those designated by a State Director, usually in cooperation with the State agency responsible for managing the species and State Natural heritage programs, as sensitive. They are those species that: (1) could become endangered in or extirpated from a State, or within a significant portion of its distribution; (2) are under status review by the FWS and/or NMFS; (3) are undergoing significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species= existing distribution; (4) are undergoing significant current or predicted downward trends in population or density such that federal listed, proposed, candidate, or State listed status may become necessary; (5) typically have small and widely dispersed populations; (6) inhabit ecological refugia or other specialized or unique habitats; or (7) are State listed but which may be better conserved through application of BLM sensitive species status.

Source: BLM Manual 6840 Special Status Species Management, Glossary, page 62 provided by Cheryl Dyer

Navajo Nation

GROUP 1: Those species or subspecies that no longer occur on the Navajo Nation.

GROUP 2 (G2) & GROUP 3 (G3): “Endangered”— Any species or subspecies whose prospects of survival or recruitment within the Navajo Nation are in jeopardy or are likely within the foreseeable future to become so.

G2: A species or subspecies whose prospects of survival or recruitment are in jeopardy.

G3: A species or subspecies whose prospects of survival or recruitment are likely to be in jeopardy in the foreseeable future.

GROUP 4: Any species or subspecies for which the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife (NNDFWL) does not currently have sufficient information to support their being listed in G2 or G3 but has reason to consider them. The NNDFWL will actively seek information on these species to determine if they warrant inclusion in a different group or removal from the list.

Source: Navajo Nation, Division of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Navajo Endangered Species List (NESL), Resources Committee Resolution No. RCMA-31-01, March 2001. Provided by Daniela Roth.

Natural Heritage New Mexico

STATE RANKS:

SX • Presumed Extirpated - Element is believed to be extirpated from NM. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.

SH • Possibly Extirpated (Historical) - Element occurred historically in NM, and there is some expectation that it may be rediscovered. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20 years. An element would become SH without such a 20-year delay if the only known occurrences in NM were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully looked for.

S1 • Critically Imperiled - Critically imperiled in NM because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from New Mexico. Typically 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals (<1,000).

S2 • Imperiled - Imperiled in NM because of rarity or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extirpation from New Mexico. Typically 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000).

S3 • Vulnerable - Vulnerable in NM either because rare and uncommon, or found only in a restricted range (even if abundant at some locations), or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation. Typically 21 to 100 occurrences or between 3,000 and 10,000 individuals.

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(Natural Heritage New Mexico STATE RANKS, *continued*)

S4 • Apparently Secure - Uncommon but not rare, and usually widespread in NM. Possible cause of long-term concern. Usually more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.

S5 • Secure - Common, widespread, and abundant in NM. Essentially ineradicable under present conditions. Typically with considerably more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.

S? • **Unranked** - NM rank not yet assessed.

SU • Unrankable - Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.

S#S# • Range Rank - A numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3) is used to indicate the range of uncertainty about the exact status of the element. Ranges cannot skip more than one rank (e.g., SU is used rather than S1S4).

HYB • Hybrid - Element not ranked because it represents an interspecific hybrid, not a species.

SE • [Exotic] - An exotic established in state; may be native elsewhere in North America; includes fish native to NM but introduced into watersheds where the species is non-native.

SE# • Exotic Numeric - An exotic established in NM that has been assigned a numeric rank to indicate its status, as defined for S1 through S5.

SA • Accidental - Accidental or casual in NM. In other words, infrequent and outside usual range. Includes species (usually birds or butterflies) recorded once or only a few times at a location. A few of these species may have bred on the one or two occasions they were recorded. Examples include European strays or western birds on the East Coast and vice-versa.

SZ • Zero Occurrences - Present but lacking practical conservation concern in NM because there are no definable occurrences, although the taxon is native and appears regularly in the state. An SZ rank will generally be used for long distance migrants whose occurrences during their migrations have little or no conservation value for the migrant, as they are typically too irregular (in terms of repeated visitation to the same locations), transitory, and dispersed to be reliably identified, mapped, and protected. In other words, the migrant regularly passes through the state, but enduring, mappable Element Occurrences cannot be defined.

SP • Potential - Potential that element occurs in the state but no extant or historic occurrences are accepted.

SR • Reported - Element reported in NM but without a basis for either accepting or rejecting the report, or the report not yet reviewed locally.

SRD • Dubious Report - Element reported in NM but the report is likely to be invalid.

SRF • False Report - Element reported in NM but the report is known to be invalid.

GLOBAL RANKS:

GX • Presumed Extinct - Believed to be extinct throughout its range. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.

GH • Possibly Extinct - Known from only historical occurrences, but may nevertheless still be extant; further searching needed.

G1 • Critically Imperiled - Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction. Typically 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals (<1,000) or acres (<2,000) or linear miles (<10).

G2 • Imperiled - Imperiled globally because of rarity or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Typically 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000) or acres (2,000 to 10,000) or linear miles (10 to 50).

G3 • Vulnerable - Vulnerable globally either because very rare and local throughout its range, found only in a restricted range (even if abundant at some locations), or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Typically 21 to 100 occurrences or between 3,000 and 10,000 individuals.

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(Natural Heritage New Mexico GLOBAL RANKS, *continued*)

G4 • Apparently Secure - Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its range, particularly on the periphery), and usually widespread. Apparently not vulnerable in most of its range, but possibly cause for long-term concern. Typically more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.

G5 • Secure - Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range, particularly on the periphery). Not vulnerable in most of its range. Typically with considerably more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.

VARIANT GLOBAL RANKS:

G#G# • Range Rank - A numeric range rank (e.g., G2G3) is used to indicate uncertainty about the exact status of a taxon.

GU • Unrankable - Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.

G? • Unranked - Global rank not yet assessed.

HYB • Hybrid - Element not ranked because it represents an interspecific hybrid and not a species.

GLOBAL RANK QUALIFIERS:

? • Inexact Numeric Rank - Denotes inexact numeric rank (e.g. G3?).

Q • Questionable taxonomy that may reduce conservation priority - Distinctiveness of this entity as a taxon at the current level is questionable.

INFRASPECIFIC TAXON RANKS:

T# • Intraspecific Taxon (trinomial) - The status of infraspecific taxa (subspecies or varieties) are indicated by a "T-rank" following the species' global rank. Rules for assigning T-ranks follow the same principles outlined above. For example, the global rank of a critically imperiled subspecies of an otherwise widespread and common species would be G5T1.

Source: New Mexico Natural Heritage Program Web Site viewed at:

http://nmnhp.unm.edu/ranks_status/ranks_status.pdf

Definitions of New Mexico Natural Heritage Program Ranks of Endangerment