Heritage Ranking Form - Global Rank

**Scientific Name:**  Stephanomeria malheurensis

**Common Name:**  Malheur wire-lettuce

**Classification:**  Vascular Plant

**Range Extent:**  A = <100 sq km (< ~40 sq mi)

  Comments:  Endemic to a very small area south of the town of Burns in Harney County, Oregon.

**Area of Occupancy:**  A = <1 km

  Comments:  Grid cell count would be a great over-estimation of area of occupancy. The two sites together are under 100 acres.

**Number of Occurrences:**  A = 1 - 5

  Comments:  Two EOs, one presumed extinct in the wild and another a novel reintroduction site. Both populations are maintained by transplants.

**Population Size:**  C = 250 - 1,000 individuals

  Comments:  1028 plants transplanted in 2008, though the trend has been for these reintroduced populations to fail in a matter of years. Recruitment from previous years' seed is low.

**Good Viability:**  A = No occurrences with excellent or good (A or B) viability or ecological integrity

  Comments:  Two EOS, both ranked D as they are not self-sustaining.

**Environmental Specificity:**  Not Evaluated

  Comments:  None

**Short Term Trends:**  AD = Decline of >50%
Comments: Reintroductions have failed to be self-sustaining.

**Long Term Trends:**

A = Decline of >90%


**Threat Impact:**

A = Very High

Comments: Impacted by weeds; fares better with cool, wet springs; vulnerable to climate change.

**Intrinsic Vulnerability:**

A = Highly vulnerable

Comments: Does not appear to compete well with exotic annual taxa.

**Heritage Rank:**

G1

Comments: Known only from a single site in southeastern Oregon where it was first discovered in 1966. The species' habitat was invaded shortly thereafter by cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum) an aggressive, non-native plant which eventually replaced much of the native vegetation, including every known S. malheurensis plant, by 1985. However, because the species was of scientific interest, viable seed had been stored off-site, making the difference between extinction and survival for the species. Transplants and recovery efforts are ongoing at the original site and since 2007 at a second nearby location. A self-sustaining population has yet to be established. Potential threats include zeolite mining claims, cattle grazing, herbivory, and competition from exotic plant species.

Rank Notes: None


Rank Date: 8/27/2012
Rank Author: Lindsey Wise