

California Status Factors

Elcode PDSAX02010
Gname BENSONIELLA OREGANA
Gcomname Bensoniella

Number of Occurrences

B = 6 - 20

Comments There are 5 occurrences noted in the California Natural Diversity Database and 2 new locations in the ISMS dataset. There could possibly be more, since the ISMS data set does contain more points. However, it is unclear whether these are the same as the already known sites in the CNDDDB.

Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

A = No (A- or B- ranked) occurrences with good viability

Comments One population has an estimated 2000 plants, but is located on private property and is not protected.

Population Size

D = 1,000-2,500 individuals

Comments Total plant numbers estimated at less than 2500 individuals.

Range Extent

F = 20,000-200,000 km² (about 8,000-80,000 square miles)

Comments Bensoniella is found only in Humboldt County, California. The majority of the populations are located near the Snow Camp Mountain area.

Area of Occupancy

A = <0.4 km² (less than about 100 acres)

LA = <4 km (less than about 2.5 miles)

Comments

Long-term Trend in Population Size, Extent of Occurrence, Area of Occupancy, and/or Number or Condition of Occurrences

D = Moderate Decline (decline of 25-50%)

Comments

Short-term Trend in Population Size, Extent of Occurrence, Area of Occupancy, and/or Number or Condition of Occurrences

D = Declining. Decline of 10-30% in population, range, area occupied, and/or number or condition of occurrences

Comments

Threats

A = Substantial, imminent threat. Threat is moderate to severe and imminent for most (> 60%) of the population, occurrences, or area. Ecological community occurrences are directly impacted over a widespread area, either causing irreversible damage or requiring long term recovery

Scope High Severity Moderate Immediacy Moderate

Comments Three of the sites are grazed--one heavily. In addition, one report also notes logging as a possible threat.

Number of Appropriately Protected and Managed Occurrences

A = None. No occurrences appropriately protected and managed

Comments None of the sites are protected. Three are on privately owned lands, another is on public lands, Six Rivers National Forest. The forest does not appear to be managing for this species.

Intrinsic Vulnerability

B = Moderately Vulnerable. Species exhibits moderate age of maturity, frequency of reproduction, and/or fecundity such that populations generally tend to recover from decreases in abundance over a period of several years (on the order of 5-20 years or 2-5 generations); or species has moderate dispersal capability such that extirpated populations generally become reestablished through natural recolonization (unaided by humans). Ecological community occurrences may be susceptible to changes in composition and structure but tend to recover through natural processes given reasonable time (10-100 years).

Comments

Environmental Specificity

B = Narrow. Specialist or community with key requirements common.

Comments *Bensoniella* plants grow in wet meadows, at edges near bogs and springs. Populations seem to be associated with cloud/fog banks that blanket the mountain tops at certain times of year (Siskiyou FEIS). Elevation has been reported from 2000 to 4750 feet.

Other Considerations

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Grank S2.2 **Grank Date** 11/14/2002

Reasons

This species is restricted within the state to one county. Plant numbers less than 2500, occurrences are few, sites are not protected or managed for this species, and they are threatened by grazing.

BCD Sources

New Sources

Interagency Species Management System. November 20002. ISMS data set. ISMS BLM and USFS, Portland, OR.