

# Heritage Ranking Form - Global Rank

**Scientific Name:** Bensoniella oregana

**Common Name:** Bensonia

**Classification:** Vascular Plant

**Range Extent:** E = 5,000-20,000 sq km (~2,000-8,000 sq mi)

Comments: 3875 square miles. Manual range extent calculated using Oregon and California Natural Diversity Data Base occurrences.

**Area of Occupancy:** E = 26-125 4-km<sup>2</sup> grid cells

Comments: Total of 88 grid cells. 81 for Oregon, 7 for California

**Number of Occurrences:** C = 21 - 80

Comments: 49 total Eos; 43 OR occurrences, 6 California occurrences. Used 1 km separation distance.

**Population Size:** F = 10,000 - 100,000 individuals

Comments: Oregon populations from 42000-49000 (numbers from sightings 1980-present). CA populations, 6250, all records from late 1990's to present). For most of the records, reporters counted the number of plants but since Bensoniella reproduces vegetatively by stolons, total numbers are estimated to be about 20-33% less which could make the plant numbers to be as low as 28,000. Lang (1988) estimated the number of genetically distinct individuals between 12,000 to 20,000.

**Good Viability:** CD = Few to some (4-40) occurrences with good viability

Comments: In Oregon, about 13 occurrences with plant numbers above 600; in California there are 2. Number of occurrences with good viability drops to 8 if one assumes that genetically distinct plant numbers are actually 30% lower than what is reported.

## Environmental

**Specificity:** B = Narrow. Specialist or community with key requirements common

Comments: Restricted to moist habitat along edges of streams, meadows, and wet boggy areas. Soils that are moist, but not saturated, from flowering until ovule development has started. Soil is metasedimentary not granitics, ultramafics or sandy (Copeland 1980). Also appears to be limited to areas influenced by coastal summer fog (Copeland 1980).

**Short Term Trends:** U = Unknown

Comments: None

**Long Term Trends:** FG = Decline of <30% to relatively stable

Comments: Populations believed to be relatively stable in the long term.

**Threat Impact:** A = Very High

Comments: Populations appear to be able to withstand logging but because of its narrow moisture requirement for ovule development, global climate is a very serious threat. Species scored as Extremely Vulnerable in NatureServe's Climate Change Vulnerability Index calculator.

**Intrinsic Vulnerability:** Not Evaluated

Comments: None

**Heritage Rank:** G3

Comments: This species is limited to SW Oregon and NW California, plant numbers from 42000 to 49000 (genets estimated at 28000-39000). Although logging and recreation do not appear to be major threats, its narrow moisture requirement makes it highly vulnerable to global climate changes.

Rank Notes: None

Reference: Copeland, W.N. 1980. Field study and status report *Bensoniella oregana*. Final summary submitted to US Forest Service, Six Rivers NF. Unpublished document. | Lang, F.A. 1988. Species Management Guide for *Bensoniella oregana* (Abrams & Bacig.) Morton. Unpublished document, Siskiyou NF, Grants Pass, OR.

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