

Oregon Status Factors

Elcode PDSAX02010
Gname BENSONIELLA OREGANA
Gcomname Bensoniella

Number of Occurrences

D = 81 - 300

Comments There are approximately 90 known occurrences in Oregon

Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

D = Some (13-40) occurrences with good viability

Comments Of the approximately 90 known occurrences, 17 have less than 25 plants, 10 have more than 25 but less than 75, 10 have between 75 and 100, 27 have between 100 and 1000 plants, 7 have between 1000 to 2000 plants, and 5 have over 2000 plants.

Population Size

F = 10,000-100,000 individuals

Comments Total plant numbers range from 40,000-60,000.

Range Extent

D = 1,000-5,000 km² (about 400-2,000 square miles)

Comments Bensoniella is found mainly in the Siskiyou Mountains of southwestern Oregon, Curry and Josephine Counties.

Area of Occupancy

D = 20-100 km² (about 5,000-25,000 acres)

LD = 200-1,000 km (about 125-620 miles)

Comments It is estimated that there is about 10,000 hectares (<25,000 acres) of occupied area.

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%)

E = Relatively Stable ($\pm 25\%$ change)

Comments

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

U = Unknown. Short-term trend in population, range, area occupied, and number and condition of occurrences unknown.

Comments This species is in an area where an extensive and apparently hot fire has occurred. There is

concern that the fire itself and that fire suppression activities, e.g. blading and bulldozing for fire lines, may have negatively impacted populations.

Threats

C = Substantial, non-imminent threat. Threat is moderate to severe but not imminent (> 10 years) for most of the population, occurrences, or area.

Scope High Severity Moderate Immediacy Low

Comments Bensoniella grows in wet meadows, and on the edges of bogs and springs within coniferous forests that have been historically used for timber production. These sites may be affected by changes in water regime or directly impacted from associated logging practices, e.g. landing placements. Current fire suppression techniques may also be a threat, since wildland fire fighters tend to use and enhance natural openings as part of their fire line. In addition, the long term practice of preventing fires and changing the natural fire cycle may now expose plant populations to hotter and potentially more devastating fires.

Number of Appropriately Protected and Managed Occurrences

B = Few (1-3) occurrences appropriately protected and managed

Comments The Siskiyou National Forest established the Bear Camp Special Interest Area, in part to help protect this species. Three occurrences of good size and viability appear to be protected within this SIA.

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

ORNHIC List 1

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Reasons

The range of this species is limited to 2 counties in Oregon. Total number of occurrences is less than 100. Logging and associated activities continue to be a major threat. However, at least 3 occurrences are protected in a Forest Service Special Interest Area developed for this species. It is on ORNHIC's List 1 (2001), taxa considered endangered or threatened throughout range.

BCD Sources

New Sources

Oregon Natural Heritage Program [Information Center]. 2001. Rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals of Oregon. Oregon Natural Heritage Program, Portland, OR. 94 pp.

Siskiyou National Forest. 1989. Siskiyou National Forest Plan, Bear Camp Botanical Area. Pp. F50-53.