

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 km²

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%

Comments: Presumed extinct in the wild in 1985.

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

Reference: Currin, R., R. Meinke, and A. Raven. 2007. 2007 Malheur wirelettuce (*Stephanomeria malheurensis*) recovery efforts: reintroduction and seed bulking. Report prepared for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon. Oregon Department of Agriculture, Salem, Oregon. Currin, R. and R. Meinke. 2008. Malheur wirelettuce (*Stephanomeria malheurensis*) reintroduction and seed bulking: 2008 recovery efforts. Report prepared for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon. Oregon Department of Agriculture, Salem, Oregon. Gottlieb, L.D. 1991. The Malheur wire-lettuce, a rare, recently evolved Oregon species. *Kalmiopsis* (journal of the Oregon Native Plant Society): 9-12.

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