

**Rare Plant Status Review:*****Astragalus leucolobus***

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*Astragalus leucolobus* is a perennial herb in the Fabaceae that has been on CNPS List 1B since the first edition of the CNPS Inventory in 1974. This species is most readily distinguished from other *Astragalus* by the distinctive wooliness of the plant, the long ascending purple keel and its higher elevation localities. This species is nearly endemic to the Bear Valley area in San Bernardino County with only a few populations present in adjacent Los Angeles, Riverside, and Ventura Counties. Occurrences from San Benito, Inyo, and Kern County need fieldwork and are thought to be misidentified. *A. leucolobus* is also thought to occur in portions of the Santa Rosa Mountains in San Diego County; however, no collections or specific sites have yet been located to our knowledge.

There are currently 46 occurrences of this species in the CNDDDB. However upon a preliminary examination of the 86 herbarium records on the Consortium of California Herbaria, there appear to be an additional 26 occurrences of this species bringing the total number of occurrences to approximately 72. Of the 46 occurrences known to CNDDDB, 20 of these occurrences were documented in the late 1990's and early 2000's and less than 10 occurrences were from before 1950. Several of the known populations of *A. leucolobus* are on lands protected by The Nature Conservancy. CNPS has received several requests for this species to be moved to List 4 over the years by people such as Glenn Clifton, Scott White, Andy Sanders, Scott Eliason, and Melody Lardner. The most common reasons given for moving *A. leucolobus* to List 4 are because it is fairly common within the Bear Valley area and because it appears to respond well to disturbance and often occupies disturbed areas. *A. leucolobus* does not appear to be restricted to one kind of habitat as it is known from relatively dry areas in coniferous forests, gravelly knolls in sagebrush, stony lake shores, and pinyon/juniper woodlands.

Threats to this species include development, off-road vehicles, and recreational activities. In addition, development near Big Bear Lake may impact the amount of potential habitat available for this species in the long term. Despite these threats, *A. leucolobus* appears to be doing quite well where it is distributed and for this reason, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend moving *A. leucolobus* from CNPS List 1B.2 to List 4.2.

After much discussion, CNPS/CNDDDB have chosen to keep this species on List 1B.2. While common in the Bear Valley area of San Bernardino County, it is uncommon in Los Angeles and Riverside Counties. Specimens from San Benito, Inyo, Kern, and Ventura Counties all are likely misidentified, thereby reducing the known range of the species. Of the 46 occurrences currently in CNDDDB, only 25 have been collected/observed in the last 20 years. This is a species that appears to be "common where it occurs" but does not occur in too many areas and we will continue to keep it on List 1B.2 until further evidence suggests that List 4.2 is more appropriate.

**Recommended Actions****CNPS:** Move from List 1B.2 to List 4.2- [Keep on List 1B.2](#)**CNDDDB:** Change from G2 / S2.2 to G3 / S3.2.- [Make this change](#)

**Revised CNPS *Inventory* record:**

*Astragalus leucolobus* Jones

“Big Bear Valley woollypod”

Fabaceae

**List 1B.2**

~~Inyo?~~, ~~Kern?~~, Los Angeles, Riverside, ~~San Benito?~~, San Bernardino, ~~Ventura~~  
065C [Toro Peak/3311654], 104B [Onyx Peak/3411626], 105A [Moonridge/3411627],  
105B [Big Bear Lake/3411628], 130C [Rattlesnake Canyon/3411636], 131C  
[Fawnskin/3411638], 131D [Big Bear City/3411637], 132D [Butler Peak/3411731], 134B  
[Mescal Creek/3411746], 134C [Mount San Antonio/3411736], 134D [Telegraph  
Peak/3411735], ~~190C? [Sawmill Mountain/3411972], 190D? [Cuddy Valley/3411971],  
212C [Tehachapi South/3511814], 304D? [Louisiana Butte/3611715], 362D?  
[Panoche/3612057], ANAC [Anacapa Island/3311983]~~

Lower montane coniferous forests, pebble (pavement) plain, pinyon/juniper woodland,  
upper montane coniferous forests / rocky; elevation 1750 m-2665 meters.

Perennial herb, blooms May-July.

Threatened by development, recreational activities, and vehicles.