

Added to List 2.2 on 11/16/09

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Cryptantha fendleri*
Proposed New Add to List 2.3**

Nicholas Jensen (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)
October 7, 2009

Background

Cryptantha fendleri is an annual herb in the Boraginaceae. *C. fendleri* will be included as native to California in the *Jepson Manual*, 2nd Edition (Ron Kelley, pers. comm. 2009). It was first documented in Mono County by Glenn Clifton (collection date unknown), and was documented by Dave Silverman in Inyo County in 2009. *C. fendleri* is distinguished from other species of *Cryptantha* based on the characteristics of its nutlets (it typically has 4 nutlets that are smooth, shiny and 1/3 as wide as they are long). *C. fendleri* flowers in June and July.

At the Inyo County occurrence *C. fendleri* grows on, "pebbly loose soils...among low stands of sagebrush (*Artemisia bigelovii*, *A. nova*), winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*), herbaceous *Artemisia*, and occasional big sagebrush (*A. tridentata*) usually with *Eriogonum cernuum* and weedy herbs" (Dave Silverman, pers. comm. 2009). In California, *C. fendleri* grows between 1950 and 2210 meters in elevation.

C. fendleri is known from a total of two occurrences, one near Benton Crossing in Mono County, and the other in the Little Cowhorn Valley in Inyo County. It is ranked as a G5 taxon by NatureServe, and is known from all states in the western US, Alaska, South Dakota, Nebraska, and two provinces in Canada. It is ranked as S2 (Imperiled) in Montana and Wyoming. In 2009, approximately 1900 individuals were observed over 60 acres of habitat at the Inyo County occurrence, and additional suitable habitat (not surveyed) was located in the area (Dave Silverman, pers. comm. 2009). Jim Andre and Ron Kelley attempted to relocate the Mono County occurrence in August of this year, but the site was very dry and no plants were observed (Jim Andre, pers. comm. 2009). Suitable habitat within and beyond the known range of *C. fendleri* should be searched for additional occurrences.

The land ownership at the California occurrences of *C. fendleri* is unknown. At this time, there are no known threats to *C. fendleri* in California.

Based on the available information we recommend that *C. fendleri* be added to CNPS List 2.3.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.3

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G5, S1

Please review the draft CNPS Inventory record below, respond Yes or No on the proposal to add this species to the Inventory and CNDDDB, and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

Cryptantha fendleri (Gray) Greene

sand dune cryptantha

Boraginaceae

List 2.3

Inyo, Mono; AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, WA, WY

Benton Hot Springs (451D) 3711875, Cowhorn Valley (392A) 371182

Great Basin scrub. 1950-2210 meters.

Annual herb. Blooms June-July.