

Rare Plant Status Review:

Ageratina shastensis

List change from List 4.2 to 1B.2

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Changes made since the original status review appear in blue.

Ageratina shastensis is a perennial herb in the Asteraceae endemic to northern California. *A. shastensis* occurs in chaparral and lower montane coniferous forest habitats from 400 to 1800 meters in elevation. Julie Nelson (pers. comm. 2008) states that, "virtually all populations are at or near the tops of ridges or peaks, on exposed limestone outcrops separated by areas of unsuitable habitat." *A. shastensis* is distinguished from the closely-related *A. occidentale* based on the number of heads per inflorescence (*A. shastensis* typically has 1 head per inflorescence, whereas *A. occidentale* typically has >18 heads per inflorescence), flower color, and other characteristics. *A. shastensis* flowers between June and October. *A. shastensis* is included in *The Jepson Manual* (1993), *The Flora of North America* (Vol. 21), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual* (2nd Edition).

A. shastensis (known as *Eupatorium shastense* at the time) was originally included in the 1974 (1st edition) of the CNPS Inventory on the list of "Very Rare and Rare and Endangered Plants" (R-E-V-D Code 2-1-1-3). In the 1980 (2nd edition) of the Inventory *E. shastense* was included on List 3, "Plants rare, but not Endangered." In the 1984 (3rd edition) of the Inventory, it was included on List 4, "Plants of limited distribution: a watch list," and it has remained on that list ever since.

A. shastensis is known from approximately 18 occurrences in northeastern Shasta County. Julie Nelson states that on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, they "have only found three new populations in the (past) two decades, and those have not extended the geographic range, (which is) about 15 mi by 15 mi." Dean Taylor (pers. comm. 2008) indicates that *A. shastensis* may have been, "downgraded to List 4 without much evidence that it is or is not that common. Conversely, the number of sites is limited...and there are no new specimens since 1992."

Many of the occurrences of *A. shastensis* are on land that is publicly owned, and managed by the US Forest Service or the National Park Service. Occurrences on private land are threatened by mining. Rhonda Posey (pers. comm. 2008) indicates that the occurrence, "between McCloud Reservoir Dam and Ash Camp... may have been extirpated by natural causes. The rock in this area is not limestone, but metamorphic sedimentary rock. It is also very active as far as sluffing and breaking and is constantly causing rock slides. The best I can figure is the *Ageratina* was the victim of a rock slide. Jon Thompson and I tried to

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relocate this population several times between 1995 and 1997 when we were working in the area. There have been several slides in the area since then."

Suitable habitat within and beyond the known range of *A. shastensis* should be searched for additional occurrences.

As a general rule, List 4 of the CNPS Inventory includes plants of limited distribution with >50 extant occurrences. The current evidence regarding the rarity and distribution of *A. shastensis* indicates that it is too rare to be included on List 4. Consequently, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *A. shastensis* be re-ranked from List 4.2 to List 1B.2.

Recommended Action

CNPS: Re-rank from CNPS List 4.2 to List 1B.2

CNDDDB: Re-rank from CNDDDB G3, S3.2 to G2, S2.2

Revised CNPS *Inventory* record:

Ageratina shastensis (D.W. Taylor & Steb.) R.M. King & H. Robinson

Shasta ageratina

Asteraceae

List 1B.2

Shasta

Bollibokka Mtn (664B), Minnesota Mountain (664C), Shoeinhorse Mtn (681D), Yellowjacket Mtn. (681C), Grizzly Peak (680B), Lake McCloud (681A), Goose Gap (664A), Goose Gap (664A)

Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest / rocky, carbonate; elevation 400-1800 meters.

Herb (perennial), blooms June-October.

Threatened by mining. See *Madroño* 25(4):218-220 (1978) for original description.