

**Re-ranked to List 3.1 on 10/22/09****Rare Plant Status Review****Proposed Deletion of *Claytonia lanceolata* var. *peirsonii* from List 1B.1**

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**Background**

*Claytonia lanceolata* var. *peirsonii* has been included in the CNPS Inventory since 1974. Historically, the name *C. lanceolata* var. *peirsonii* was attributed to occurrences of *C. lanceolata* located in the San Gabriel Mountains of San Bernardino County. Krantz (Peirson's spring beauty (*Claytonia lanceolata* var. *peirsonii*), A study of the taxon throughout its range, 1980) called *C. lanceolata* var. *peirsonii*, "a much reduced variety of the common species."

In their monograph of *Claytonia*, Miller and Chambers (*Systematic Botany Monographs*, Volume 76, 2006) note that *C. lanceolata* var. *peirsonii*, "was based on a variant collected in the San Gabriel Mountains in southern California. Isozyme studies (Mistretta and Liston 1992) found a high level of genetic polymorphism in populations assigned to this taxon. It was suggested that the disjunction of the southern populations may have developed quite recently, associated with post-Pleistocene climatic change. The subtle variations among plants of these populations fall within the general range of *C. lanceolata* and do not warrant taxonomic recognition." According to Orlando Mistretta (pers. comm. 2008), "morphological review doesn't support recognition of this taxon." Furthermore, Steve Boyd (pers. comm. 2008), after reviewing specimens of *C. lanceolata* from the San Gabriel Mountains and elsewhere was, "left with the sense that the varieties of *C. lanceolata* intergrade massively" and recommended that, "Unless there is good molecular or other genetic data supporting retaining *C. lanceolata* var. *peirsonii* as a distinct taxon, I'd be inclined to follow Miller's treatment and go ahead and delete the plant from the CNPS Inventory."

*C. lanceolata* var. *peirsonii* is treated as a synonym of *C. lanceolata* in *The Jepson Manual* (1993) and *The Flora of North America* (Volume 4). Following suit, *The Jepson Manual* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) will not recognize *C. lanceolata* var. *peirsonii* as a distinct variety of *C. lanceolata* (John Miller, pers. comm. 2008).

Based on this information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *C. lanceolata* var. *peirsonii* be deleted from the CNPS Inventory (it will be placed on the CBR list). Should reviewers agree with this recommendation, the decision to delete *C. lanceolata* var. *peirsonii* from the CNPS Inventory does not negate the fact that the disjunct populations of *C. lanceolata* in the San Gabriel Mountains are locally significant and worthy of protection and special management actions.

**Recommended Actions**

**CNPS:** Delete *Claytonia lanceolata* var. *peirsonii* from CNPS List 1B.1

**CNDDDB:** Delete *Claytonia lanceolata* var. *peirsonii* from CNDDDB, G53T1Q, S1.1

The current CNPS Inventory record is below. Please respond Yes or No on the proposal to Delete this species from the Inventory and CNDDDB, and provide any edits/comments on the proposed change.

**Current CNPS Inventory Record**

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*Claytonia lanceolata* Pursh. var. *peirsonii* M. & J.

Peirson's spring beauty

Portulacaceae

List 1B.1

San Bernardino

Subalpine coniferous forest (SCFrS), Upper montane coniferous forest (UCFrS)/scree; Elevation 2135-2745 meters.

Perennial herb, blooms May-June.

Known only from five occurrences in the San Gabriel Mtns. Threatened by foot traffic, recreational activities, and proposed ski area expansion. Angeles NF has adopted species management guidelines. A synonym of *C. lanceolata* in *The Jepson Manual*. See *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* 49:352 (1922) for original description.