

Rare Plant Status Review: *Erigeron maniopotamicus*

Misa Ward (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)
Plant summary and maps provided by Sydney Carothers
February 10, 2005

Background

Erigeron maniopotamicus was recently described new to science by Nesom and Nelson in *SIDA* 21(2): 673-678 (2004). This species is known from only 6 occurrences, all within east-central Humboldt County and adjacent Trinity County. It requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and CNDDDB. The *SIDA* abstract is included below, and the complete article is available at <http://www.brit.org/Sida/SCBCurlIssue.htm>.

Erigeron maniopotamicus G.L. Nesom & T.W. Nelson, sp. nov., a member of the *E. eatonii* alliance, apparently is endemic to east-central Humboldt County and immediately adjacent Trinity County, California. It is sympatric with *E. robustior* but it perhaps is more closely related to *E. eatonii* or *E. lassenianus*.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B

CNDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G1/S1.2 (please contribute any information you have on known imminent risks to the occurrences in your evaluation of this threat rank)

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

Erigeron maniopotamicus G.L. Nesom & T.W. Nelson

“Mad River fleabane daisy”

List 1B / RED 3-2-3

Humboldt, Trinity

615B, 634A, 652B

Meadows and seeps (open, dry), lower montane coniferous forest / open slopes, disturbed areas (road cuts); tan-colored, rocky soils; elevation 1350-1500 meters.

Perennial herb, blooms June through August.

Known only from six occurrences from three widely disjunct locations in east-central Humboldt County and adjacent Trinity County. Potentially threatened by road maintenance, grazing, and logging. Not in *The Jepson Manual*. See *SIDA* 21(2): 673 (2004) for original description.

Background

Erigeron maniopotamicus is a perennial, tap-rooted herb in the Asteraceae that appeared to be an undescribed species to the principal author when he studied *Erigeron* specimens from Humboldt State University Herbarium (HSC) in preparation for writing the treatment of *Erigeron* for the *Flora of North America*. A review of *Erigeron* in the UC Berkeley Herbarium produced other specimens that seemed to substantiate this. Collections made in 2004 by Tom Nelson of the same taxon from the same areas as two of the original collections provided enough material to convince both authors that the taxon warranted recognition as a new species based on its morphological distinctiveness within the *Erigeron eatonii* alliance and geographic isolation from all but one of the other members of the alliance.

E. maniopotamicus is known to three general locations separated from one another by several miles. Occurrences from two of these areas were verified as extant in 2004. The third location, Kettenpom Valley in Trinity County, likely has changed a great deal since the species was collected there in 1893. The valley is privately owned and has been used primarily for ranching, including cattle grazing and timber extraction, throughout the 20th century.

The two occurrences that were visited in 2004 consisted of fewer than 200 individuals each within areas of approximately 1/10 acre. One of these occurrences was approximately ½ mile from the original site Tom Nelson collected from in 1980. Both sites are on private property, and it is possible that the species is found in other locations in the vicinity.

Four of the five Humboldt County sites are on private lands that are used for timber harvest and grazing, and one is on Forest Service land (check with Six Rivers on management designation). The two occurrences visited in 2004 are both roadside. Threats to all of these populations potentially include road maintenance, cattle grazing and actions associated with logging such as road building/ widening and creation of landings in potential or occupied habitat. In addition, the species is afforded no protections by virtue of primarily occupying privately owned habitat.

More information needs to be gathered on the geographic range and distribution of the species. For instance, in 1951 Joseph Tracy noted on the label for the collection he made near Twin Lakes that the species was “frequent locally in gravelly open places.” Whether this is still true, given past land management practices, is unknown.

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Known locations of *Erigeron maniopotamicus*. Cross reference with mapped locations.

Dinsmore Quad (634A)

1. T 1N, R 5E, NE ¼ of NW ¼, Sec 26. Jack Rabbit Valley along Swayback Ridge 4-wheel drive road 1 mile S of jct with Forest Service road. Meadow on meta-sediments, 4900'. 6/10/1980
2. T 1N, R 5E, Sec 23. Dry open hillside, 4450'. UTM: E 450562, N 4477625
6/18/2004

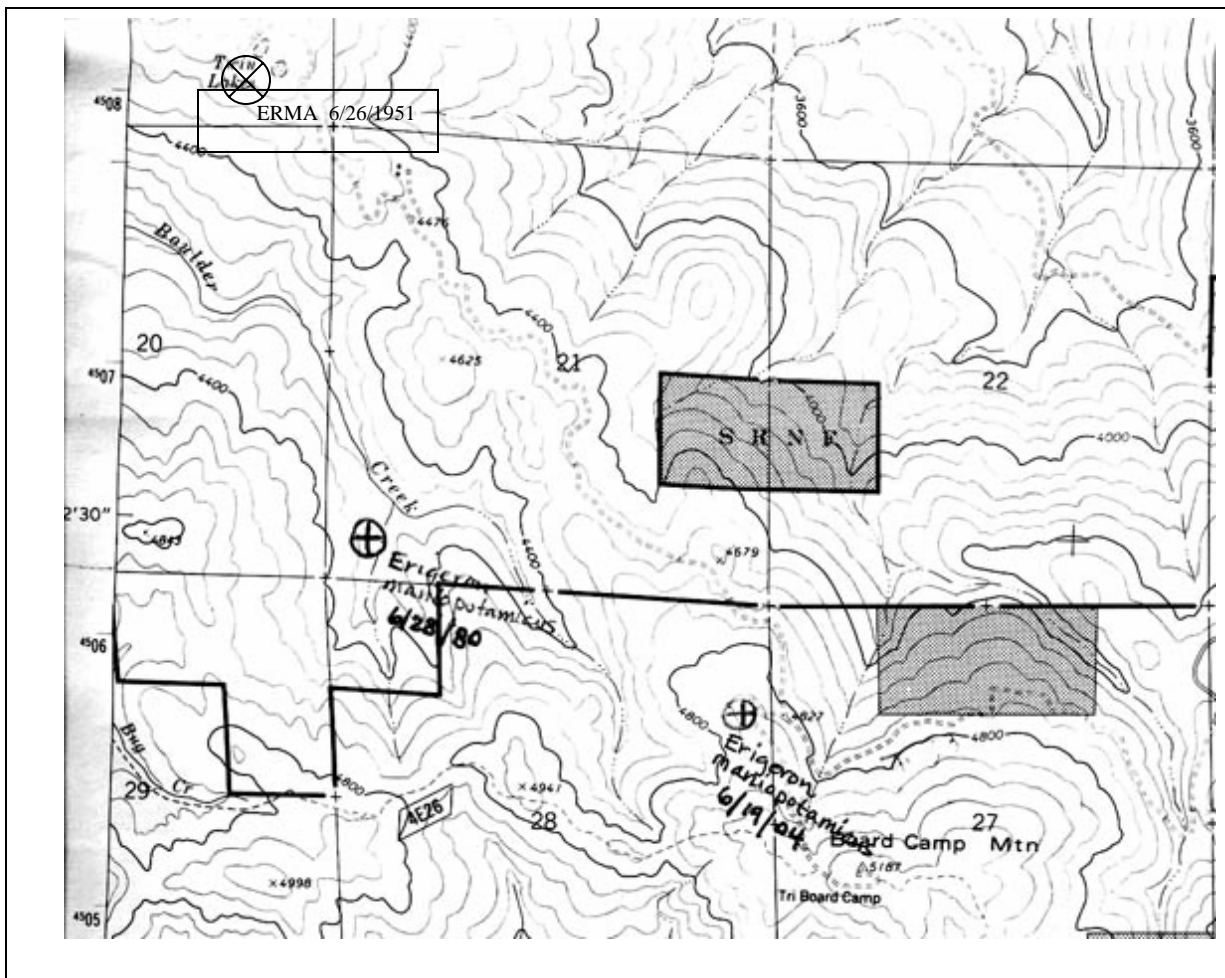
Boardcamp Mountain Quad (652B)

1. T 4N, R 4E, SE ¼, Sec 17. Twin Lakes vicinity, frequent locally in gravelly open places.
6/26/1951
2. T 4N, R 4E, SW ¼, Sec 21. Near Mad River Buttes. Lat 40° 42' 15" Lon 123° 44' 41".
6/28/1980
3. T 4N, R 4E, NE ¼, Sec 28. Board Camp Mtn off Forest Svc Rd 49N38 1 mi. from jct with FS Rte.
1. UTM: E 450779, N 438981. 6/18/2004

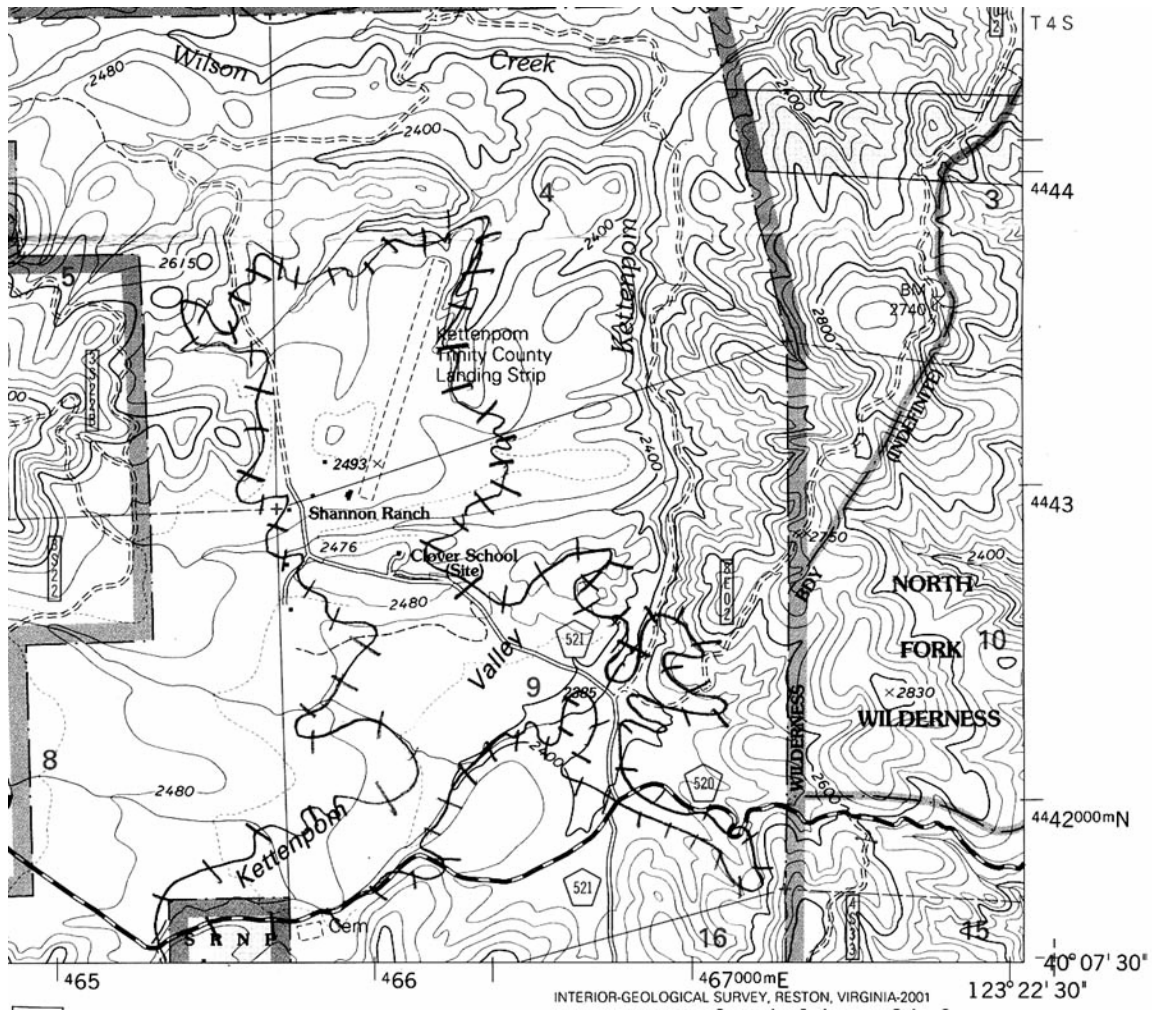
Zenia Quad (615B)

1. T 4S, R 7E, Secs 4,5,8,9. Kitten-Pum [Kettenpom] Valley. 6/26/1893

Erigeron maniopotamicus Maps sent by Sydney Carothers 2/6/05



Board Camp Mountain (652B) 4012366



Zenia (615B) 4012324



Dinsmore (634A) 4012345