

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Frangula purshiana* ssp. *ultramafica***  
Nicholas Jensen (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)  
December 19, 2007

**Background**

*Frangula purshiana* ssp. *ultramafica* is a deciduous shrub in the Rhamnaceae. This taxon was recently described by John O. Sawyer and Stephen W. Edwards in *Madroño* (*Madroño* 54(2): 172-174 (2007)). The treatment for *Frangula* in the upcoming revision of *The Jepson Manual* will include three species (*F. californica*, *F. rubra*, and *F. purshiana*), which were formerly included in the genus, *Rhamnus*. *The Jepson Manual* author for the *Frangula* treatment, John Sawyer, confirms that *F. purshiana* ssp. *ultramafica* will be included in the upcoming revision of *The Jepson Manual* (J. Sawyer, pers. comm., 2007). *F. purshiana* ssp. *ultramafica* is differentiated from other subspecies of *F. purshiana* based on various leaf blade characteristics.

*F. purshiana* ssp. *ultramafica* is known from just four populations in the Plumas National Forest. Populations are restricted to areas of serpentinitized peridotite and associated mafic and ultramafic substrates in the Bucks Lake area. The largest occurrence of *F. purshiana* ssp. *ultramafica* grows in the Red Hill area near the North Fork of the Feather River. The taxon grows in mixed conifer forest, chaparral, seep, and rocky streambed habitats from 825-1570 meters. Other areas in the Plumas National Forest and adjacent private lands containing serpentinitized peridotite, mafic, or ultramafic soils should be searched for additional populations of *F. purshiana* ssp. *ultramafica*.

The four known populations of *F. purshiana* ssp. *ultramafica* occur on lands managed by the Plumas National Forest. Reported threats to these populations include road maintenance, Off-highway vehicle use, and mining. Based on the information currently available, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *Frangula purshiana* ssp. *ultramafica* be added to List 1B.

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B.2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G1 / S1.2

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**

*Frangula purshiana* Cooper ssp. *ultramafica* J.O. Sawyer & S.W. Edwards

Rhamnaceae

Caribou coffee berry

List 1B.2

Plumas

606C [4012112/Caribou], 590A [3912181/Meadow Valley], 591D [3912173/Soapstone Hill]

Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, chaparral/ serpentinite.

Sent to SN-

Element Code: ?  
Added to list 1B.2 on 14 Feb 2008

Elevation 825-1570 meters.

Shrub (deciduous), blooms May-July.

Known from fewer than 10 occurrences. Not in *The Jepson Manual* (1993). See *Madroño* 54(2): 172-174 (2007) for original description.

Sent to SN-