Rare Plant Status Review: *Loeseliastrum depressum*
New Add to List 2.3 4.3
Nicholas Jensen (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDB)
October 7, 2008
Changes made since the original status review appear in blue.

Background


*L. depressum* is known from sandy or gravelly slopes and washes in Mojavean desert scrub, Great Basin scrub (*Artemisia tridentata*, and *Atriplex confertifolia* plant communities), and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats from 1220 to 2100 meters in elevation (D. Wilken, pers. comm. 2008).

In California, *L. depressum* is known from approximately 17 occurrences in Inyo, Mono, Lassen, and San Bernardino Counties. It is known from the Owens Valley, the White Mountains, the Mojave Desert, and from one location in Honey Lake Valley, in eastern Lassen County. *L. depressum* is also known from Nevada (where is it more common), and Utah. It is ranked as a G5 (Secure) by NatureServe, is unranked (SNR) in Nevada, and is ranked S1S2 (Imperiled) in Utah. According to Dieter Wilken (pers. comm. 2008) *L. depressum* “may be either poorly collected or insufficiently reported. I suspect that it grows in areas that are not actively visited or collected, except perhaps in exceptional years. Because it is an annual, somewhat small in size, with inconspicuous flowers, and flowers relatively early in the season, it may be neglected except in years of above normal precipitation. In "average" years most plants are rather small, only a few cm tall, and then with only a few flowers.” Suitable habitat within and beyond the known range of *L. depressum* should be searched for additional occurrences.

Since herbarium specimens are the main source of location information for most of the known occurrences, some sites are vague. More detailed location information for some occurrences is needed to correctly map *L. depressum*. Little information is currently available about the population size of *L. depressum* at most of the known occurrences.

No information about threats to *L. depressum* in California is currently known. The land ownership of most occurrences of *L. depressum* is also unknown; however, the range of the species contains a significant amount of publicly-
owned land managed by the US Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDB recommend that *L. depressum* be added to List 2.3 4.3.

**Recommended Actions**
CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.3 4.3
CNDDB: Add to CNDDB as G5 / S3?

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

**Draft CNPS Inventory Record**

*Loeseliastrum depressum* (M.E. Jones ex A. Gray) J.M. Porter & L.A. Johnson
Polemoniaceae
List 2.3 4.3
Inyo, Lassen, Mono, San Bernardino; Nevada, Utah
Lone Pine (351D) 3611851, Chidago Canyon (432C) 3711854, Deep Springs Lake (412D) 3711831, Blackrock (372B) 3611882, Chalfant Valley (432D) 3711853, White Mtn. Peak (432A) 3711863, Poleta Canyon (413D) 3711833, Laws (413A) 3711843, Spencer Creek (620D) 4012031, Lucerne Valley (131B) 3411648, Yermo (181A) 3411687
Mojavean desert scrub, Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland / sandy or gravelly; elevation 1220-2100 meters.
Annual herb. Blooms May-July