

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Packera hesperia***  
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**Background**

*Packera hesperia* (*Senecio hesperia*) is a perennial herb in the Asteraceae. This species was previously known from about 45 occurrences in Oregon; however, it has only recently been discovered in California. In 2003, Jenny Moore of the Six Rivers National Forest found this species in a seasonally wet meadow near Lower Coon Mountain in Del Norte County. The plant was confirmed as *P. hesperia* by Deb Trock at the California Academy of Sciences who is a *Packera* expert, and the author of the *Flora of North America* and the new edition of *The Jepson Manual* treatment for this genus. This occurrence has approximately 1000 individuals, as well as another rare species (*Lewisia oppositifolia*- CNPS List 2.2). *P. hesperia* appears to be endemic to serpentine soils in the Siskiyou Mountains of Oregon and California. In California, this species occurs in a seasonally wet meadow in an area dominated by Jeffrey pine and *Festuca* sp. It is threatened in Oregon by potential mining, grazing, and logging and is possibly threatened in California by logging, burning, and off-road vehicle use.

*P. hesperia* was first described in 1891 as *Senecio hesperius* but is recognized in the *Flora of North America* and the upcoming *Jepson Manual* under the genus *Packera*. Due to the recent discovery of a single population of *P. hesperia* in California, this species requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDDB.

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G3 / 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.

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**Draft CNPS Inventory Record**

*Packera hesperia* (Greene) W.A. Weber & A. Love

Asteraceae

"Siskiyou ragwort"

List 2.2

Del Norte; Oregon

739C [Gasquet/4112378]

Upper montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps / serpentinite; elevation 500-2500 meters.

Perennial herb, blooms April-June.

Possibly threatened by alteration of fire regimes, logging, and vehicles. A synonym of *Senecio hesperius*. Not in *The Jepson Manual* (1993). See *Pittonia* 2: 166 (1891) for original description.