

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Sidalcea multifida*  
New Add to List 2.3**

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**Background**

*Sidalcea multifida* is a perennial herb in the Malvaceae. *S. multifida* has long been recognized as native to California and is included in Munz's *A Flora of California* (1959), *The Jepson Manual* (1993), *The Jepson Desert Manual* (2003), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). *S. multifida* is distinguished from other *Sidalcea* spp. based on leaf (*S. multifida* has leaves that appear to be 7-lobed), root, and inflorescence characteristics. It flowers between May and September.

*S. multifida* grows in dry to mesic lower montane coniferous forest, Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, and meadow habitats from 1750 to 2800 meters in elevation.

In California, *S. multifida* is known from approximately 10 occurrences in Alpine, Mono, and Tulare counties. It is known from 9 occurrences in the Sierra Nevada (8 of which occur in Tulare County in the southern Sierra Nevada), and one occurrence in the Sweetwater Mountains of Mono County. According to Jim Morefield (pers. comm. 2008) *S. multifida* is more common in Nevada with, "about 17 or 18 distinct Nevada occurrences documented by 23 specimens... Since the habitat is nothing special and pretty common within its range, I would be confident in ranking it S3 (approximately 21-80 occurrences) for Nevada." Additionally, *The Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States* (Vol. 3, Abrams 1951) states that *S. multifida* is known from Klamath County in Oregon. According to Sue Vrilakas (pers. comm. 2008), there is only one known Oregon herbarium specimen of *S. multifida* from Lake County. Further research is needed to determine whether or not this species occurs in Oregon. NatureServe ranks *S. multifida* as a G3 (vulnerable; 21-80 occurrences) taxon.

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 *S. multifida*. Little information is currently available about the population size of *S. multifida* at most of the known occurrences.

*S. multifida* was a proposed addition to List 4 during the preparation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of the CNPS Inventory. For unknown reasons it was "postponed until after the 6<sup>th</sup> edition" and not included.

No information about threats to *S. multifida* in California is currently known. The land ownership of most occurrences of *S. multifida* is also unknown; however,

the range of the species contains a significant amount of publicly-owned land managed by the US Forest Service.

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *S. multifida* be added to List 2.3.

### **Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.3

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G3 / S2

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**

*Sidalcea multifida* Greene

cut-leaf checkerbloom

Malvaceae

List 2.3

Alpine, Mono, Tulare; Nevada, Oregon?

Quinn Peak (331D) 3611835, Haiwee Pass (306A) 3611821, Topaz Lake (505A) 3811965, Hockett Peak (307B) 3611824, Monache Mountain (306B) 3611822, Sacatar Canyon (283A) 3511881, Mount Patterson (488A) 3811943, Chris Flat (488B) 3811944

lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland; elevation 1750-2800 meters.

Perennial herb. Blooms May-September

See Cybele Columbiana 1:34 (1914) for original description, and University of Washington Publication in Biology 18:39-41 (1957) for taxonomic treatment.