

Added to List 2.2 on 3/1/10

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Viola howellii*
Proposed New Add to List 2.2**

Nicholas Jensen (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)
January 4, 2010

Changes made since the original status review are in blue.

Background

Viola howellii is an herbaceous perennial in the Violaceae. In California, it was first collected by John Little in May of 2008, and will be included in as native to California in the 2nd Edition of the Jepson Manual (John Little, pers. comm. 2009). *V. howellii* is distinguished from other species of violet based on leaf and floral characteristics. *V. howellii* flowers between May and June.

In California, *V. howellii* is known from a single location in ~~northeastern~~ **northwestern** Siskiyou County near the California-Oregon border. The California occurrence consists of three adjacent locations along Elliott Creek Road (FS 1050) near the New London Trail. The nearest locations of *V. howellii* in Oregon are located approximately 21 miles to the northeast and 22 miles to the east-northeast in Jackson County (John Little, pers. comm. 2009). *V. howellii* is listed as a G4 taxon (apparently secure) by NatureServe and it occurs in Oregon, Washington (where it is unranked, SNR), and British Columbia (where it is considered a S2S3 taxon). Suitable habitat adjacent to the known occurrence in California should be searched for additional occurrences of *V. howellii*.

V. howellii occurs in damp, shady areas in the riparian corridor of Elliott Creek within northern coastal coniferous forest habitat at approximately ~~4295~~ **655** meters in elevation. Associated taxa include *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Tsuga* sp., *Acer macrophyllum*, *Betula* sp., and various fern and moss species. Plants at the location commingle with *V. sempervirens* (John Little, pers. comm. 2009).

Possible threats to *V. howellii* include logging, foot traffic, and fugitive dust deposition from cars traveling on Elliott Creek Road.

Based on this information CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *V. howellii* be added to CNPS List 2.2.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G4 / S1

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

Viola howellii A. Gray

Howell's violet

Violaceae

List 2.2

Siskiyou

Dutch Creek (736A) 4112381

NCFrs; elevation ~~4295~~ 655 meters.

Herbaceous perennial. Blooms May-June.

Known in California from only 1 occurrence. Possibly threatened by logging and foot traffic.