

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
5-YEAR STATUS REVIEW
Pariette cactus (*Sclerocactus brevispinus*) and
Uinta Basin hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus wetlandicus*)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Species: Pariette cactus (*Sclerocactus brevispinus*) and Uinta Basin hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus wetlandicus*)

Date listed: November 13, 1979

Federal Register Notice of Listing Determination: 44 FR 58868, October 11, 1979;
Taxonomic revision: 74 FR 47112, September 15, 2009

Classification: Threatened, both species

Most recent status review: 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation, Utah Ecological Services Field Office, August 10, 2020

Federal Register Notice citation announcing this 5-year status review: 88 FR 15448 15451, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Initiation of 5-Year Status Reviews of 27 Listed Species in the Mountain-Prairie Region, March 13, 2023.

Lead Region: Mountain-Prairie Region (R6)

Lead Field Office Contact: George Weekley, george_weekley@fws.gov, 801.239.0561

Current Recovery Priority Number (RPN): Pariette cactus: 5C
Uinta Basin hookless cactus: 8C

Methodology used to complete this review: In accordance with section 4(c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C Section 1531 *et seq.*), as amended (Act), the purpose of a 5-year status review is to assess each threatened and endangered species to determine whether its status has changed and it should be classified differently or removed from the Lists of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife and Plants. Status reviews are to be completed in accordance with Sections 4(a) and 4(b) of the Act (16 U.S.C. Section 1533(c)). This 5-year review was conducted by Utah Ecological Services Field Office. Data for this review were solicited from interested parties through a Federal Register notice announcing this review on March 13, 2023. We also contacted State and Federal partner agencies, species experts, and stakeholders to request any data or information we should consider in our review.

ASSESSMENT:

Information acquired since the last status review:

In 2024, we finalized the Recovery plan for both species that outlines criteria and objectives to achieve recovery (USFWS 2024). A recovery implementation team has been established to guide the implementation of the Recovery plan. To date, none of the recovery criteria have been met.

We are aware of a recent genetic study on these species that suggests a taxonomic change may be needed. We will review this paper when it has published in a peer-reviewed journal and address any taxonomic changes that may need to be made to the species at that time.

Monitoring continues for these species, and recent results are similar to those outlined in the previous review (USFWS 2020):

- Four out of five conservation areas are not meeting recovery criteria.
- Chronic disturbance (especially livestock trampling) is altering population structure and reducing viability.
- Large reproductive individuals (size class 4) are critical for population stability but are declining across most sites.

Conclusion:

After reviewing the best available scientific information, we conclude that *S. wetlandicus* and *S. brevispinus* should remain threatened species. The evaluation of threats affecting the species under the factors in 4(a)(1) of the Act and analysis of the status of these species in our previous 5-year review (USFWS 2020) remains an accurate reflection of these species' status.

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CURRENT CLASSIFICATION:

RECOMMENDATION RESULTING FROM THE 5-YEAR STATUS REVIEW:

- Downlist to Threatened
- Uplist to Endangered
- Delist (Indicate reasons for delisting per 50 CFR 424.11):
 - Extinction
 - Recovery
 - Original data for classification in error
- No change is needed

APPROPRIATE LISTING/RECLASSIFICATION PRIORITY NUMBER, IF APPLICABLE:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIONS:

- 1) Review the most recent genetic analyses for both species after publication and address any recommendations for taxonomic change at that time.
- 2) Continue to work with partners on the Recovery Implementation Team to monitor these species as intended to meet recovery criteria and objectives outlined in the Recovery Plan (USFWS 2024).

Lead Field Office Approval:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Literature Cited:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1979. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Final Rule to Determine *Sclerocactus glaucus* (Uinta Basin hookless cactus) to be a Threatened Species. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 3 pp.

_____. 2020. 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation, Utah Ecological Services, West Valley City, Utah. August 10, 2020. 15 pp.

_____. 2024. Recovery Plan for Uinta Basin hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus wetlandicus*) and Pariette cactus (*Sclerocactus brevispinus*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6, Denver, Colorado. 25 pp.