

5-YEAR REVIEW

Ash Meadows sunray (*Enceliopsis nudicaulis* var. *corrugata*)



Photo by Peter Pearsall, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, June 2020

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September 2020

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Species: Ash Meadows sunray (*Enceliopsis nudicaulis* var. *corrugata*)

Date listed: May 20, 1985

FR citation(s): 50 FR 20777

Classification: Threatened

BACKGROUND:

Most recent status review:

The status of Ash Meadows sunray was last reviewed in September 2011, in a 5-year review (Service, 2011).

FR Notice citation announcing this status review:

84 FR 36116, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Initiation of 5-Year Status Reviews of 58 Species in California, Nevada, and the Klamath Basin of Oregon, 26 July 2019

ASSESSMENT:

Information acquired since the last status review:

This 5-year review was conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Southern Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office. Data for this review were solicited from interested parties through a Federal Register notice announcing this review on July 26, 2019. We also contacted the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDOF), the Nevada Natural Heritage Program (NNHP), the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Southern Nevada District Office, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Henderson Field Station, the Clark County Desert Conservation Program, the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, the Desert Research Institute, the Nevada Native Plant Society, and participants at the 2019 Nevada Rare Plant Workshop to request any data or information we should consider in our review. Additionally, we conducted a literature search and a review of information in our files.

We received a recent monitoring report from Ash Meadows NWR (Pyramid Botanical Consultants, 2019). The results indicate the species is still present at all previously known populations within the refuge. Further, the species distribution remains the same as described in our most recent 5-year review (Service, 2011), thus this information does not alter our understanding of the species' current distribution.

Conclusion:

After reviewing the best available scientific information, we conclude that Ash Meadows sunray (*Enceliopsis nudicaulis* var. *corrugata*) remains a 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 the species in our most recent 5-year review (Service, 2011) remains an accurate reflection of the species current status.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIONS: *(optional, but may be helpful to identify priorities for management actions and information needs for next 5-year review)*

1. Monitor compliance with the January 12, 2018 Nevada Revised Statute Order 1197A, Curtailment of New Appropriations of Groundwater within the Amargosa Valley Hydrographic Basin 230, to ensure groundwater levels in Devils Hole can support the population. Order 1197 is no longer in effect. Water levels in Devils Hole are affected by pumping centers in Amargosa Desert and the Ash Meadows groundwater basins (Halford and Jackson 2020);
2. Collaborate with the Ash Meadows NWR to implement the *Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex – Ash Meadows, Desert, Moapa Valley, and Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuges Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Volume I – August 2009* (Service 2009) and also the *Draft Ash Meadows Natural Resource Management Plan* in review (Service, 2020);
3. Support Ash Meadows sunray (*Enceliopsis nudicaulis* var. *corrugata*) research at the Ash Meadows NWR to monitor the population as identified in the Recovery Plan for the Endangered and Threatened Species of Ash Meadows (Service 1990); and
4. Monitor the future activity of mineral rights in the Ash Meadows area. The BLM ACEC surrounding the refuge is withdrawn from mining and entry until 2029 (PLO# 7737, signed November 2nd, 2009), but requires renewal every 20 years. Mining can still occur on private inholdings within the refuge, but no active mining permits exist at this time.

Lead Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service

Approve _____ Date _____

The lead Field Office must ensure coordination with other offices and regions within the range of the species to ensure that any new information they have has been adequately considered prior to the review's completion. The lead field office should document this coordination in the agency record.

Literature cited:

- Halford, K.J., and Jackson, T.R., 2020, Groundwater characterization and effects of pumping in the Death Valley regional groundwater flow system, Nevada and California, with special reference to Devils Hole: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1863, 178 p., <https://doi.org/10.3133/pp1863>.
- Nevada State Engineer. 2018. Order # 1197A: Curtailment of New Appropriations of Groundwater within the Amargosa Valley Hydrographic Basin (230), Nye County, Nevada. State of Nevada January 2018. 2 pp.
- Pyramid Botanical Consultants. 2019. Protocol Survey Report 2014–2019 Monitoring of Nine Endemic Rare Plants (FF08RASH00-053). Unpublished report prepared for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service December 2019. 22 pp.
- [Service] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2009. Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex – Ash Meadows, Desert, Moapa Valley, and Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuges Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Volume I – August 2009. 44 pp.
- [Service] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011. Ash Meadows sunray (*Enceliopsis nudicaulis* var. *corrugata*) Five-Year Review. 22 pp.
- [Service] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2020. Draft Ash Meadows Natural Resource Management Plan. Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Amargosa Valley, Nevada.