

Ipomopsis polyantha (Pagosa skyrocket) added as a candidate species for the federal listing

SUMMARY: In this Candidate Notice of Review (CNOR), we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), present an updated list of plant and animal species native to the United States that we regard as candidates or have proposed for addition to the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Identification of candidate species can assist environmental planning efforts by providing advance notice of potential listings, allowing resource managers to alleviate threats and thereby possibly remove the need to list species as endangered or threatened. Even if we subsequently list a candidate species, the early notice provided here could result in more options for species management and recovery by prompting candidate conservation measures to alleviate threats to the species.

The CNOR summarizes the status and threats that we evaluated in order to determine that species qualify as candidates and to assign a listing priority number to each species. Additional material that we relied on is available in the Species Assessment and Listing Priority Assignment Forms (species assessment forms, previously called candidate forms) for each candidate species.

We request additional status information that may be available for the 286 candidate species. We will consider this information in preparing listing documents and future revisions to the notice of review, as it will help us in monitoring changes in the status of candidate species and in management for conserving them. We also request information on additional species that we should include as candidates as we prepare future updates of this list.

This document also includes our findings on resubmitted petitions and describes our progress in revising the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants during the period May 5, 2004, through May 2, 2005.

DATES: We will accept comments on the Candidate Notice of Review at any time.

Flowering Plants

Ipomopsis polyantha (Pagosa skyrocket)--Pagosa skyrocket is an extremely narrow endemic with a global distribution limited to a 13-mile range on outcrops of Pagosa-Winifred soils derived from mancos shale in Archuleta County, Colorado. The total population size is estimated to be between 2,246 and 10,626 plants. It is ranked as ``critically endangered throughout its range'' (G1) by NatureServe and ``critically endangered in the state'' (S1) by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. Populations are on federal highway rights of way and private lands. Much of the occupied habitat on private lands has been subdivided and is being rapidly developed. There are no plans being implemented for the management, protection, or conservation of the species. The Colorado Rare Plant Technical Committee, including botanists from the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, has identified *I. polyantha* as the species most in need of protection and recovery

efforts in 2005 in Colorado. We assign this species a listing priority number 2 based on imminent habitat destruction throughout its narrow range.

Taken from: [Federal Register: May 11, 2005 (Volume 70, Number 90)]
[Proposed Rules]
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From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]