

**WELSH'S MILKWEED**  
*(Asclepias welshii)*

**STATUS:** Threatened with critical habitat (52 FR 41435, October 28, 1987).

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** This member of the milkweed family (Asclepiadaceae) is a rhizomatous, herbaceous perennial, 25-100 cm (10-40 in) tall, with large oval leaves. The cream-colored flowers are rose-tinged in the center.

**HABITAT:** Open, sparsely vegetated semi-stabilized sand dunes and on the lee slopes of actively drifting sand dunes.

**RANGE: Current:** Several thousand individuals are known from a few concentrated areas on the Coral Pink Sand Dunes and the Sand Hills area of Kane County, Utah. Small populations are known from near Page, Coconino County, Arizona, and the Paria-Vermillion Cliffs Wilderness Area near the Utah/Arizona border in Kane County, Utah.

**Potential:** Southern Utah and northern Arizona where naturally occurring drifting sand dunes from Navajo sandstone occur.

**REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY:** Limited habitat and small number of populations make this species vulnerable to threats. Recreational use of off-road vehicles is damaging habitat and destroying plants. Livestock use this species for forage.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** Bureau of Land Management, Navajo Nation (potential), and Utah State Parks.

**NOTES:** For location of critical habitat see 52 FR 41435. All critical habitat occurs in Utah.

Protected by the Arizona Native Plant Law.

A Recovery Plan for Welsh's Milkweed was approved September 1992.