

**PEEBLES NAVAJO CACTUS**  
*(Pediocactus peeblesianus var. peeblesianus)*

**STATUS:** Endangered (44 FR 61922, October 26, 1979) without critical habitat.

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** This cactus is very difficult to find because the plants are very small and during dry weather plants retract into the soil. Stems are solitary or rarely clustered, globose, and up to 2.5 cm (1 in) tall and about 1.9 cm (0.74 in) in diameter. The 4 (3-5) radial spines are arranged in a twisted cross and central spines are absent. Flowers are yellow to yellow-green, up to 2.5 cm (1 in) in diameter, and appear in the spring.

**HABITAT:** The Peebles Navajo cactus may occur on a variety of substrates; best described as weakly alkaline, gravelly soils where the host gravel can occur on a variety of substrates, including but not limited to the Shinarump conglomerate of the Chinle Formation. Most of the gravels that host this cactus are remnants of bars or terraces of Little Colorado paleochannel gravels. This species occurs at elevations ranging from 1,640-1,710 m (5,400-5,600 ft). Associated species are sparsely scattered, low shrubs and grasses of the Navajo Desert.

**RANGE:** Central Navajo County, near Holbrook, Arizona.

**REASONS FOR DECLINE / VULNERABILITY:** The specific habitat requirements, limited geographic range, and small number of individuals make this species vulnerable to extinction. Threats to the species include gravel mining, off-road vehicle traffic, urban development, road construction, pesticide application, global climate change with the potential for an associated drought, and elevated herbivory as a result of drought conditions. Reproduction may be insufficient to maintain populations over the long term.

**LAND MANAGEMENT / OWNERSHIP:** Bureau of Land Management and private.

**NOTES:** Recovery Plan approved 1984; Peebles Navajo Cactus Habitat Management Plan approved by BLM 1985; demographic studies have been occurring since 1980; and a five-year review under the Endangered Species Act completed in 2008.

Protected from international trade by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Also protected by the Arizona Native Plant Law.

*Pediocacti* are some of the most difficult cacti to grow in cultivation.