

# News Release

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## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Proposes Downlisting Beach Plant Thanks to Conservation Efforts in California

*Sacramento, Calif.* - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to downlist beach layia from endangered to threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This proposed downlisting is based on the best available scientific and commercial information, which indicates that the species no longer meets the definition of endangered.

Beach layia is a succulent annual herb belonging to the sunflower family. The plant grows on dry, exposed beach sites spread across six isolated dune systems in coastal California. From north to south, there are 13 populations from Humboldt County to Vandenberg Air Force Base in Santa Barbara County.

“As a result of the collective conservation efforts of federal, state, local and private entities, this species is one step closer to achieving recovery,” said Dan Everson, field supervisor of the Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office. “Habitat protections and ongoing management since listing have resulted in a reduction of the threats where the beach layia is found.”

Off-road vehicle use, grazing and development have been reduced throughout much of the species’ range, and habitat restoration has occurred in many areas. Despite this positive step toward recovery, beach layia still faces ongoing threats to its long-term survival, including habitat degradation, sea level rise, invasive species, prolonged drought and erosion.

The proposal to reclassify the beach layia will publish in the *Federal Register* on September 30, 2020, opening a 60-day public comment period. The Service will consider comments from all interested parties received by November 30, 2020. Information on how to submit comments is available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) by searching under docket number FWS-ES-R8-2018-0042. The notice will also be available at <http://fws.gov/arcata>.

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