

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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News Release



<http://www.fws.gov/arcata/>

For Immediate Release

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SERVICE DETERMINES THAT TWO MENDOCINO COUNTY PLANT SPECIES DO NOT WARRANT PROTECTION UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced today it has completed a status review of two plant species, Red Mountain buckwheat (*Eriogonum kelloggii*) and Red Mountain stonecrop (*Sedum eastwoodiae*) and concluded that these plants do not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Service made this finding after a thorough review of all the available scientific and commercial information regarding its status and threats to the species.

The Red Mountain buckwheat and Red Mountain stonecrop are plant species found in the lower montane forest of the northern Coast Range at Red Mountain in Mendocino County, California. The plants grow in serpentine soils, which usually contain high levels of heavy metals and other minerals and often support plant species which have become uniquely adapted to this harsher environment.

Limited monitoring indicates that both species have fairly stable populations relative to their distribution. The potential major threats facing the two plants included commercial mining, unauthorized Off-Highway Vehicle use, fire (management and suppression activities), small population size, and the effects of climate change.

The Red Mountain area has been designated as a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Area of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Area (ACEC/RNA) and is part of the South Fork Eel River Wilderness. These designations have greatly diminished the potential threat of mining and BLM has implemented numerous conservation actions due to the two species being considered "sensitive species" by BLM. Recent land acquisitions by BLM have consolidated land ownership and protected the majority of populations the two plants.

Although some stressors still impact the two species and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future, these have either not materialized (commercial mining), or they are not of such magnitude to have population-level impacts. In addition, the implementation of conservation measures and regulatory actions has greatly reduced the imminence and severity of these stressors on the two plants.

Today's announcement complies with the terms of a 2011 settlement agreement whereby the Service is required to submit to the Federal Register by September 30, 2014 a proposed listing rule or a not warranted finding. A copy of the 12-month finding and other information about the two Red Mountain plants is available at <http://www.fws.gov/arcata>.

The Service encourages the public to continue to submit any new information concerning the status of, and threats to Red Mountain buckwheat and Red Mountain stonecrop, which will help the Service monitor and support the ongoing management of these species. Information should be sent to: Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office, 1655 Heindon Road, Arcata, CA 95521.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov/cno/>. Connect with our [Facebook page](#), follow our [tweets](#), watch our [YouTube Channel](#), and download photos from our [Flickr page](#).



Red Mountain Buckwheat

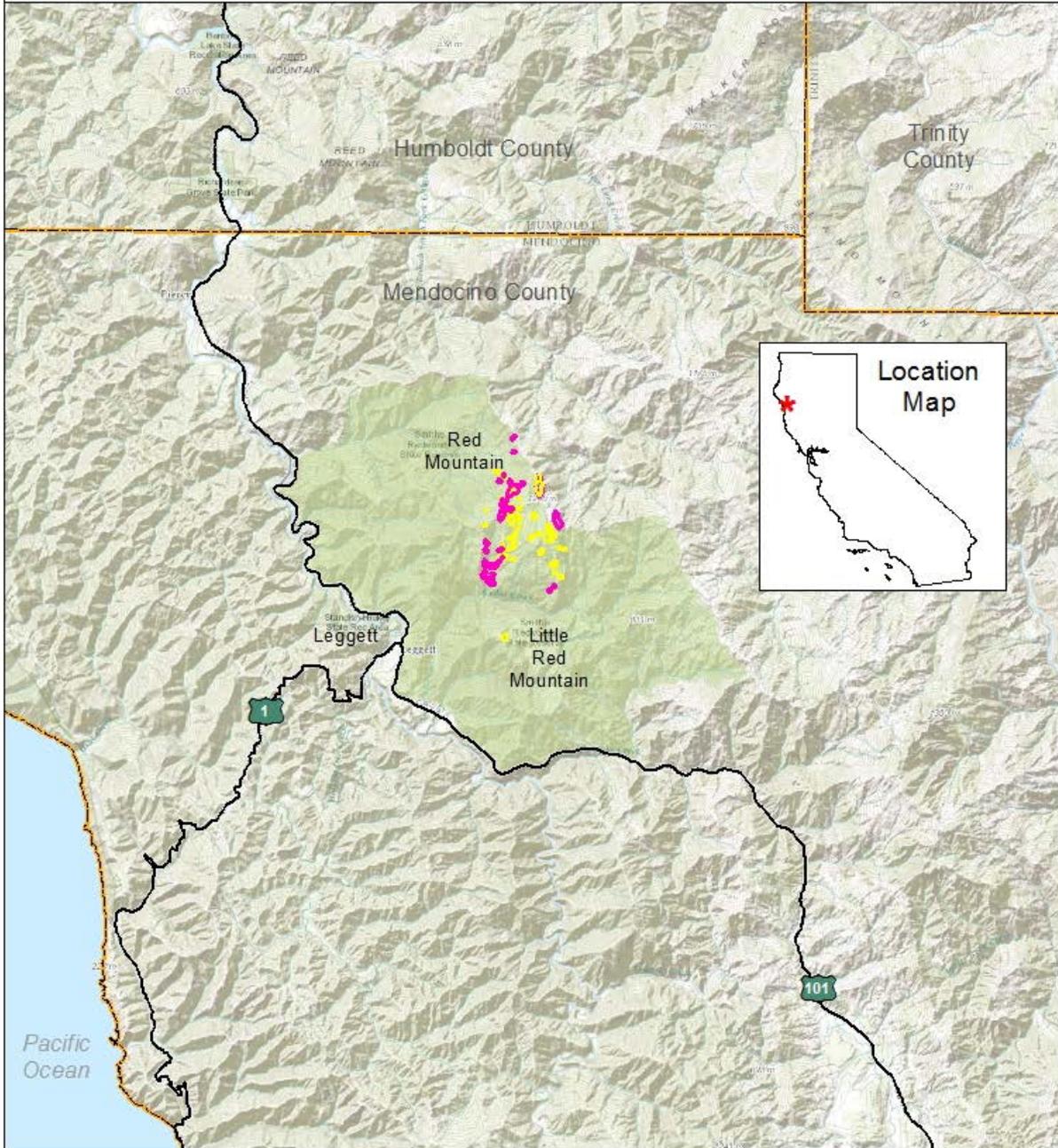


Red Mountain Stonecrop



Red Mountain, Mendocino County (BLM Photo)

2 Red Mountain Plants Vicinity Map



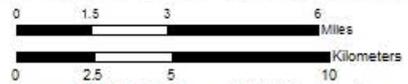
Legend

— Major Highways

CNDDDB Information

 *Sedum laxum* ssp. *eastwoodiae*

 *Eriogonum kelloggii*



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Southwest Region
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