

JAN 30 2009

5-YEAR REVIEW

Short Form Summary

Species Reviewed: *Silene spaldingii* (Spalding's catchfly)

Current Classification: Threatened

FR Notice announcing initiation of this review:

April 29, 2008. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Initiation of 5-Year Status Reviews for 70 Species in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and the Pacific Islands. 73 FR 23264-23266.

Lead Region/Field Office:

Region 1/Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, Boise, Idaho. Primary Contact: Susan Burch, (208) 378-5265.

Name of Reviewer(s):

Steve Duke: 208-378-5345; Susan Burch 208-378-5265

Methodology used to complete this 5-year review:

This 5-year review of *Silene spaldingii* (Spalding's catchfly) was accomplished through the status review conducted to complete the Recovery Plan for *Silene spaldingii* (Spalding's catchfly) published in September of 2007 (Plan) (USFWS 2007a). This recovery plan summarized the species' information and outlined actions needed for recovery. The Plan was developed with input from over 50 individuals, and data and guidance from a *Silene spaldingii* technical team. On April 29, 2008, we published a Federal Register notice (73 FR 23264), soliciting any new information regarding the species' or its habitats since completion of the Plan. A comment period was open from April 29 to May 30, 2008, where we received one comment. Additionally, we have considered information in this 5-year review provided by individuals of an interagency *Silene spaldingii* technical team and as well as Service staff working on Section 7 consultations.

Application of the 1996 Distinct Population Segment (DPS) Policy:

Application of the Service's 1996 DPS Policy does not apply to plant species.

Review Analysis:

Please refer to the Recovery Plan for *Silene spaldingii* (Spalding's catchfly) published in September of 2007 (<http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html>) for a complete discussion on the species status (including biology and habitat), 5-factor threat analysis, and evaluation of ongoing management efforts. Since the recovery plan was recently completed, the status of the species has not changed significantly and recovery criteria for delisting have not been met.

Since the publication of the Plan in 2007, ten new *Silene spaldingii* populations have been discovered which are identified in Table 1: 2 populations in the Blue Mountain Basins; 5 populations in the Canyon Grasslands; 2 populations in the Channeled Scablands; and 1 population in the Palouse Grasslands (Table 1). Only one (the Asotin

Wildlife Management Area) of the 10 new populations has more than 50 individuals and could be considered a “key conservation area” as defined in the Plan. This site has over 700 plants and lies within the Canyon Grasslands physiographic region. None of the new populations were found in areas that expanded the known range of *Silene spaldingii*.

Recent surveys in 2007 and 2008 have increased populations estimates at several sites including the Zumwalt Prairie population in the Blue Mountain Basins of Oregon. This population is now estimated at over 10,000 individuals (R. Taylor, The Nature Conservancy, *in litt.* 2008), making it the largest known population range-wide. In addition, the Telford *Silene spaldingii* population in the Channeled Scablands of Washington was expanded when almost 200 new individuals were located (D. Stutzman, Spokane Bureau of Land Management, *in litt.* 2008). Other population surveys or counts conducted since the 2007 Recovery Plan have not significantly changed the number of *Silene spaldingii* individuals at each population.

Overall, *Silene spaldingii* populations are not secure from threats identified in the Plan including invasive nonnative plants; problems associated with small, geographically isolated populations; changes in the fire regime and fire effects; land conversion associated with urban and agricultural development; adverse livestock grazing and trampling; adverse grazing (herbivory) and trampling by wildlife species; off-road vehicle use; insect damage and disease; impacts from prolonged drought and climate change; and the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms. Of most significance, the Chimney Complex wildfire of 2007 burned within the Canyon Grasslands (Craig Mountain) within the largest *Silene spaldingii* population in Idaho (C. Fletcher, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, *in litt.* 2007), and the third largest population range-wide. Also, one population which consisted of one plant in the Palouse Grasslands of Idaho was likely buried and lost due to road construction (USFWS 2007b), highlighting the vulnerability of small populations in fragmented habitats.

Ongoing conservation efforts include research, Palouse Grassland conservation actions, invasive nonnative plant control, and land acquisition. Monitoring efforts continue, the technical team has worked towards developing a standardized monitoring protocol, and new monitoring has been initiated.

In summary, little time has elapsed since our comprehensive status review conducted in the 2007 Recovery Plan, and not a lot of new information has been gained. The status of the species has not changed, and recovery criteria goals have not yet been met.

Table 1. New *Silene spaldingii* populations discovered during 2007 and 2008 surveys.

Physiographic Region	State	EO Number	County	Site Name	Number of Individuals	Citation
Blue Mountain Basins	OR	039	Wallowa	South Fork Lightning Creek	18	S. Vrilakas <i>in litt.</i> 2008
Blue Mountain Basins	OR	040	Wallowa	East of Crow Creek	34	S. Vrilakas <i>in litt.</i> 2008 Idaho Natural Heritage Program
Canyon Grasslands	ID	030	Idaho	Soards Gulch South	6	2008
Canyon Grasslands	ID	032	Idaho	Pine Bar – Hells Gate Creek	2	Gray and Kinter 2008
Canyon Grasslands	ID	033	Idaho	Downriver from Swartz Bar Shroyer Trail - Shroyer Ranch Conservation Easement	1	Gray and Kinter 2008
Canyon Grasslands	WA	unknown	Idaho	Smoothing Iron Ridge - Asotin Creek WMA	39	USBLM 2008
Canyon Grasslands	WA	unknown	Asotin		700+	Gray 2008
Channeled Scablands	WA	unknown	Lincoln	Twin Lakes Fire	14	D. Stutzman <i>in litt.</i> 2008
Channeled Scablands	WA	unknown	Lincoln	Allotment #650	26+	D. Stutzman <i>in litt.</i> 2008
Palouse Prairie	WA	unknown	Whitman	Whelan Cemetery	11	Weddell and Skinner 2005

Literature Cited

Gray, K. 2008a. 2008 field survey for *Silene spaldingii* (Spalding's catchfly) in the Asotin Wildlife Area, Asotin County, Washington. Unpublished report prepared for the Washington Department of Wildlife, Olympia, Washington. 8pp. + appendices.

Gray, K. and L. Kinter. 2008. Field survey for Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) – 2008 field season. Draft report submitted to the Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office by the Idaho Natural Heritage Program on December 2, 2008. 5 pp.

Idaho Natural Heritage Program. 2008. Element occurrence records for *Silene spaldingii*. November 24, 1008. 55 pp.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management. 2008. Biological assessment of Shroyer Trail for federally listed, candidate, and BLM sensitive species. Draft report prepared by the US BLM on April 3, 2008.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007a. Recovery Plan for *Silene spaldingii* (Spalding's Catchfly). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. xiii + 187 pages. Also available at: <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html>. Last accessed December 18, 2008.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007b. US 95 Lewiston Hill to Genesee; Key #7769 – Nez Perce and Latah Counties, Idaho – Biological Opinion. February 15, 2007. 16 pp.

In Litterae

Fletcher, Clay. 2007. Wildlife Biologist, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, Boise, Idaho. Email dated August 9, 2007 to Craig Johnson at the Cottonwood BLM regarding emergency consultation for the Chimney Complex wildfire. 2 pp.

Stutzman, Diane. 2008. Botanist, Spokane Bureau of Land Management, Spokane, Washington. Email dated September 15, 2008 to Gina Glenne regarding 2007 and 2008 *Silene spaldingii* discoveries.

Taylor, Robert. 2008. Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy of Oregon, Enterprise, Oregon. Email dated December 1, 2008 to Gina Glenne regarding *Silene spaldingii* at the Zumwalt Prairie Preserve.

Vrilakas, Sue. 2008. Botanist, Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center, Portland, Oregon. Email dated November 21, 2008 regarding new populations in Oregon.

Recommendations for Future Actions:

None.

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SIGNATURE PAGE for 5-YEAR REVIEW on *Silene spaldingii* (Spalding's catchfly)

Pre-1996 DPS listing still considered a listable entity? NA

Recommendation resulting from the 5-year review:

- Delisting
- Reclassify from Endangered to Threatened status
- Reclassify from Threatened to Endangered status
- No Change in listing status

Lead Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service



Date 1-30-09