



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM**

TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW Time (4:57)

MAGUIRE DAISY (HOST – SARAH LEON WITH BEKEE HOTZE)

This transcript was produced from audio provided by FWS Endangered Species Program

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Music plays.)

MS. LEON: Hello there. This is Sarah Leon for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and joining us today is Bekee Hotze, Chief of Terrestrial Endangered Species at our Utah Ecological Services Field Office. Hi, Becky, how are you today?

MS. HOTZE: I'm doing great. How are you doing?

MS. LEON: I'm doing just fine, Bekee, thanks. And you know, today is a big day for the Maguire Daisy, but before we get ahead of ourselves, would you tell our listeners a little about this species?

MS. HOTZE: Sure. The Maguire Daisy is a member of the sunflower family, and its flowers are about the size of a dime. And the center of the flower is yellow, and the petals on the outside of the flower are white to pinkish-white. The range of the species is estimated at 390 square miles, and it starts in the central Utah in San Rafael Swell area and extends southward to the water pocket fold of Capitol Reef National Park. Right now, we know the population to exist in nine populations within five metapopulations. And those populations are distributed pretty evenly across the species' range.

MS. LEON: Okay. So, when we say that the Maguire Daisy has been recovered to the point that it no longer needs the protection of the Endangered Species Act, what's our message?

MS. HOTZE: What we're saying is that through our recovery efforts, we've gained

enough information about the species to ensure that it's resilient to sustain any threats to the species. So, like I said, the species' range, we now know it to occur over 390 square miles. Well, within that 390 square miles, we have over 162,000 individuals. And, as I said, within ten populations, within five metapopulations. And that amount of populations, the number of individuals we feel are resilient enough to withstand any threats that would impact the species.

So, when we say the species has recovered to the point where it no longer needs protection of the Endangered Species Act, what we're saying is that we believe the species' long-term viability is assured, and therefore, it doesn't meet those definitions of either threatened or endangered.

MS. LEON: And what all did it take to recover this plant and who were some of the major partners involved?

MS. HOTZE: Well, in 1999, the Central Utah Navajo Sandstone Endemic Conservation's Agreement, a conservation strategy was signed. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Capitol Reef National Park, the US Forest Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service signed the agreement. What the agreement allowed was the establishment of the inter-agency rare plant team, and then, the team works towards identifying meeting the goals for long-term conservation of five rare endemic plants through the Navajo Sandstone, the Central Utah San Rafael Swell area I was talking about earlier.

And one of those plants is the Maguire Daisy, and one of the benefits of having the team is that they're able to work throughout the range of the species regardless of the agency that owns that land or that manages that land. And critical to the success of this team was the inter-agency botanist, which was Deb Clark, and she was able to hold the team together. She's really been the one that's been driving the success of the team.

MS. LEON: From what I understand, one of the partners you just mentioned actually helped find a population of Maguire Daisy. Is that right?

MS. HOTZE: Yeah, we were able to extend the Calf Canyon population quite a bit. The last time that population was found was over a decade ago, and BLM started looking again back in 2008, and they only found a couple of individuals in Calf Canyon.

Calf Canyon is the type locality, and that means that's where the species was first discovered. So, it was really important to understand what was happening in Calf Canyon population. So, we went back out 2008, they only found a couple of individuals. And then, in 2009, they were able to extend that to a couple dozen individuals. Well, in 2010, with the post delisting money that the BLM requires, they were able to extend that to a couple hundred individuals. And then, Dana Truman, a BLM biologist, was out, and she discovered another population.

We're calling it the Seger's Hole population, and that is a entirely new metapopulation

that's different from the previous four that we knew.

MS LEON: Okay. So, this species was doing well, but now, it's doing even better?

MS. HOTZE: It's doing much better because the populations are connected by suitable habitat throughout the range of the species, where before, the populations were pretty disjunct, but to the survey efforts, we found out the populations are actually connected or they're close enough to meaningfully interact with one another.

MS. LEON: So, do conservation measures stop after the plant is delisted?

MS. HOTZE: No, what we have is a post delisting monitor plan, and the interagency rare plant team will be implementing that post-listing, monitoring plants for the next ten years. And part of the plan is to monitor both the population trends as well as the human impact monitoring to ensure that the Maguire Daisy is still protected after the post delisting.

MS. LEON: Well, thank you so much, Bekee. It was a real pleasure having you on today.

MS. HOTZE: Okay. Thank you.

MS. LEON: For the US Fish and Wildlife Service, this is Sarah Leon. Thanks for listening.