

Welsh's Milkweed

Asclepias welshii



Welsh's Milkweed / USFWS



Daniela Roth / NNHP

What does the Welsh's milkweed look like?

The Welsh's Milkweed (*Asclepias welshii*) is a perennial herb in the milkweed family. It grows 9.5 - 39 inches tall, with large oval soft woolly leaves and cream colored flowers that are rose-tinged in the middle. Flowers are made up of approximately 30 small flowers clustered together in a way that they form a ball roughly the size of a tennis ball. Flowering occurs from May to June and seed dispersal occurs from July to September. The juvenile form of this species has long, thin leaves. Because of the difference between the juvenile form and mature plants, this species is often overlooked in juvenile form.

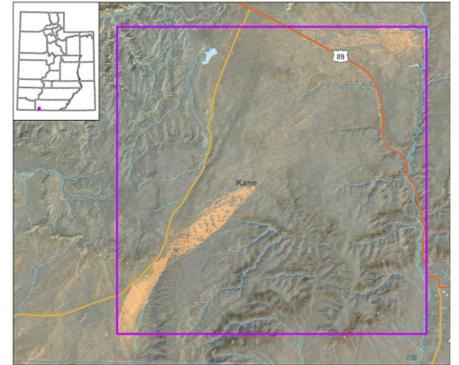
Welsh's milkweed differs from broadleaf milkweed (*A. latifolia*) by its larger seeds (1+ inches long), spreading to downward pointing seed pods, the presence of a flowering stalk (1- 3 inches long) and the main leaves remain soft and woolly when mature

Where does the Welsh's milkweed occur?

Welsh's milkweed is found on active dunes derived from Navajo sandstone in Kane County, Utah, and also in Arizona in Coconino, Navajo, and Apache Counties. Associated dune species include blowout grass, rosemary-mint, mule ears, desert twinbugs, and scurfpea.



Juvenile Forms, Roth / NNHP



Species Range / USFWS

Surrounding habitats include sagebrush, juniper, and ponderosa pine communities at 5,000 to 6,200 feet in elevation.

Legal Status under the Endangered Species Act

Welsh's milkweed was listed as threatened on October 28, 1987 (52 FR 41435). Critical habitat for this species includes about 4,000 acres of sand dune habitat in the Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park and the Sand Hills area in Kane County, Utah.



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Why does the Welsh's milkweed need protection?

The primary reasons for listing Welsh's milkweed were habitat loss, modification, and fragmentation associated with off-road vehicle activities. Off-road vehicle use continues to be the primary threat to the species.

What have we done to recover the Welsh's milkweed?

In 1992, we published a recovery plan that guides recovery efforts and informs consultation and permitting actions. We are working with our Federal, State, Tribal and private partners to implement recovery actions outlined in the Recovery Plan. Surveys were completed on the Navajo Nation and additional populations were found between 2006 and 2008. The BLM is monitoring population trends at Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park to determine the impacts of off-road vehicle use on the populations within the Park.

What do we need to do to recover the Welsh's milkweed?

We need to protect all populations on Federal lands and work with our Tribal and State partners to protect populations on their lands. We need to continue surveying potential habitat throughout the species' range and to continue monitoring and researching this species' life history and ecology. This information will guide management decisions for the Welsh's milkweed.



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More Information

To learn more about the Welsh's milkweed and conservation efforts on behalf of the species, please visit the following sites:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program's website contains Federal Register notices and recovery documents: www.fws.gov/endangered

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information, Planning and Conservation (IPaC) System is a resource project proponents can use to find out about sensitive resources within the vicinity of a proposed project: ecos.fws.gov/ipac

The Mountain-Prairie Regional Office's website contains an overview of listed plant species: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/plants/>

The Utah Field Office's website contains species leads and important information regarding federally listed species in the state, including a copy of this fact sheet: www.fws.gov/utahfieldoffice

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6

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