

News Release



Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

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Webber's Ivesia Protected under Endangered Species Act

2,170 Acres Designated as Critical Habitat

RENO, Nev. — Webber's ivesia (*Ivesia webberi*) was given protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as a threatened species today by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in addition, the Service designated 2,170 acres of critical habitat for the species.

"Webber's ivesia is threatened with extinction because of many factors, particularly the invasion of nonnative plant species and associated increases in the frequency and severity of wildfires throughout the species' limited range," said Ted Koch, State Supervisor for the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office.

Webber's ivesia is restricted to sites with sparse vegetation and shallow, rocky, clay soils on mid-elevation flats, benches or terraces between 4,475 and 6,237 feet elevation in Washoe and Douglas Counties in Nevada, and in Lassen, Plumas and Sierra Counties, in California. All 17 known populations of Webber's ivesia are within the transition zone between the eastern edge of the northern Sierra Nevada and the northwestern edge of the Great Basin. One of these populations is presumed extirpated (no longer found).

Webber's ivesia is a member of the rose family. It is a low-growing, perennial forb that is approximately ten inches in diameter with clusters of leaves that lie nearly flat on the ground. It has greenish-gray leaves, dark red, wiry stems, and head-like clusters of small bright yellow flowers. Flowering typically begins in May and extends through June and the whole plant becomes reddish-tinged late in the season.

The Service first identified Webber's ivesia as a candidate for ESA protection in 2002, due to the threat posed by urban development, authorized and unauthorized road use, OHVs and recreation use, livestock grazing and trampling, wildfire and suppression activities, displacement by nonnative, invasive plant species, and inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms. The species continues to experience habitat loss due to these same threats.

Areas identified as critical habitat for the Webber's ivesia include 16 units (two comprised of two subunits each). The area within the 16 units is currently occupied by the species. Approximately 70 percent of the designated critical habitat is on federally managed lands, 10 percent is state, and 20 percent is on private land.

The ESA provides a critical safety net for America's native fish, wildlife and plants. This landmark conservation law has prevented the extinction of hundreds of imperiled species across the nation and promoted the recovery of many others.

The health of threatened and endangered species is strongly linked to the health and well-being of people and communities. Millions of Americans depend on habitat that sustains imperiled species — for clean air and water, recreational opportunities and for their livelihoods.

Copies of the final rule may be downloaded from the Service's website at <http://www.regulations.gov> or <http://www.fws.gov/nevada>. Copies are also available by calling the Fish and Wildlife Service office at 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, Nevada, 775-861-6300.

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](#).

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