



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office  
Species Account  
SAN JOAQUIN WOOLY-THREADS  
*Monolopia congdonii*



**CLASSIFICATION:** Endangered

Federal Register Notice [55:29361](#); July 19, 1990  
<http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/frdocs/1990/90-16814.pdf>  
(3.5 MB)

Note: The species was listed under the name  
*Lembertia congdonii*.

**STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:**

The species has not been officially listed by the State.  
The California Native Plant Society has placed it on  
List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range).

**CRITICAL HABITAT:** Not designated

**RECOVERY PLAN:** Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California  
1998 [http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery\\_plan/980930a.pdf](http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/980930a.pdf)

**5-YEAR REVIEW:** Initiated March 22, 2006

[http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal\\_register/fr5047.pdf](http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr5047.pdf)

**DESCRIPTION:**

San Joaquin wooly-threads (*Monolopia congdonii*), is an annual herb in the sunflower family (Asteraceae).

The common name “wooly-threads” is derived from the many long (up to 45 centimeters - 18 inches), trailing stems covered with tangled hairs. However, San Joaquin wooly-threads plants also can be tiny (less than 7 centimeters; less than 3 inches) and erect with a single stem.

Tiny yellow flower heads are clustered at the tips of the stems and branches. Each flower head is about 6 millimeters (0.25 inch) long and contains two types of florets (the tiny flowers characteristic of the aster family); the four to seven outer florets differ in shape from the numerous inner florets. The two types of florets produce achenes (tiny, one-seeded fruits) that also differ in shape.

Seeds may germinate as early as November, but usually germinate in December and January. Flowering generally occurs between late February and early April, and may continue into May.

In contrast to the more persistent skeletons of Hoover’s wooly-star or eriastrum (*Eriastrum hooveri*), all traces of San Joaquin wooly-threads disappear rapidly after seeds are shed in April or May.



San Joaquin Wooly-Threads  
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Seed dispersal agents are unknown, but may include wind, water and animals. Seed-dormancy mechanisms are thought to allow the formation of a substantial seed bank in the soil.

Identification: San Joaquin woolly-threads differs from snowy eatonella in the shape of the florets and achenes and in geographical range See Hickman (1993) in General Information about California Plants, below, for a detailed description of these species.

#### DISTRIBUTION:

Many new occurrences of San Joaquin woolly-threads have been discovered in the last two decades, primarily in the hills and plateaus west of the San Joaquin Valley. These constitute four metapopulations and several small, isolated populations. The largest metapopulation occurs on the Carrizo Plain Natural Area,

San Joaquin woolly-threads occurs in Nonnative Grassland, Valley Saltbush Scrub, Interior Coast Range Saltbush Scrub, and Upper Sonoran Subshrub Scrub

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Little Pine Mountain (167C) 3411956, New Cuyama (192B) 3411986, Fox Mountain (192D) 3411975, Arvin (214A) 3511827, Fellows (217A) 3511925, Panorama Hills (217B) 3511926, Wells Ranch (217C) 3511916, Elkhorn Hills (217D) 3511915, Painted Rock (218A) 3511927, Taylor Canyon (218C) 3511918, Caliente Mountain (218D) 3511917, Stevens (240C) 3511932, Buttonwillow (241B) 3511944, Lokern (242A) 3511945, Belridge (242B) Lost Hills (265C) 3511956, Los Viejos (290B) 3511988, Avenal Gap (290C) 3511978, West Camp (290D) 3511977, Avenal (314C) 3612012, La Cima (314D) 3612011, Curry Mountain (315C) 3612014, Kreyenhagen Hills (315D) 3612013, Tumey Hills (361C) 3612056, Monocline Ridge (361D) 3612055 (Known extant quads only)

#### THREATS:

Potential threats to one or more sites or metapopulations of San Joaquin woolly-threads include commercial development, conversion of natural habitat to agriculture, increased petroleum production, competition from nonnative plants and either complete removal or grazing or uncontrolled grazing.

#### Upland Plants of the San Joaquin Valley

Loss and degradation of natural communities due to agriculture, urbanization, livestock grazing, water impoundment and diversion, historical predator and pest control, and other human activities have jeopardized nearly all the unique biota of the San Joaquin Valley below the woodland belts, and are the major causes of endangerment of the state and federally listed species.

#### REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

##### [General references about California plants](#)

[www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant\\_spp\\_accts/plant\\_references.htm](http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm)

Baldwin, B.G. 2001. [Review of name changes in California tarweeds.](#)

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