



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
SONOMA SUNSHINE
Blennosperma bakeri



CLASSIFICATION: Endangered
Federal Register Notice 56:61173; December 2, 1991
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr1980.pdf (3.6 MB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:
This species was listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game in September 1997. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range).

CRITICAL HABITAT: None designated

RECOVERY PLAN: None

5-YEAR REVIEW: Completed 10/8/2008. No change.
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/five_year_review/doc1992.pdf



Sonoma Sunshine
J. E. (Jed) and Bonnie McClellan
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DESCRIPTION:

Sonoma sunshine, which is also known as Baker's stickyseed, is a small (up to 12 inches in height), annual herb in the aster family (Asteraceae). The plant has alternate, narrow, hairless leaves, 2 to 6 inches long. The upper ones have 1 to 3 lobes, the lower ones none.

From March through April, the species produces yellow daisy-like flowers. The yellow disk flowers have white pollen and stigmas. Sterile ray flowers, which are yellow or sometimes white, have red stigmas. The lobe pattern of the leaves and the color of ray stigmas separate this species from other in the genus.

See Hickman (1993) in General Information about California Plants, below, for a detailed description of this species.

VERNAL POOLS:

Vernal pools are a unique kind of wetland ecosystem. Central to their distinctive ecology is their ephemeral nature. Vernal pools fill with water temporarily, typically during the winter and spring, and then disappear until the next rainy season.

In California, where extensive areas of vernal pool habitat developed over a long geological timeframe, unique suites of plants and animals have evolved that are specially adapted to the unusual conditions of vernal pools. Fish and other predators are among species that have been excluded evolutionarily by annual filling and drying cycles of vernal pools.

The prolonged annual dry phase of the vernal pool ecosystem also has prevented the establishment of plant species typical of more permanent wetland ecosystems.

DISTRIBUTION:

Sonoma sunshine is found in grasslands and vernal pools. The species is restricted to the Laguna de Santa Rosa and Sonoma areas in Sonoma County.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Sears Point (483B) 3812224, Sonoma (500C) 3812234, Santa Rosa (501B) 3812246, Cotati (501C) 3812236, Glen Ellen (501D) 3812235, Sebastopol (502A) 3812247, Healdsburg (518D) 3812257.

THREATS:

Approximately 30 percent of the historic occurrences have been eliminated or seriously damaged. Most of the remaining sites are threatened by urbanization, wastewater effluent irrigation, and agricultural land conversion. Westward expansion of the City of Santa Rosa threatens at least half the remaining habitat.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[General references about California plants](#)

www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm

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Last updated DATE