



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
IONE & IRISH HILL BUCKWHEATS
Eriogonum apricum



CLASSIFICATION: Endangered
Federal Register Notice 64:28403; May 26, 1999
www.fws.gov/ecos/ajax/docs/federal_register/fr3399.pdf
(94 KB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:
In August 1981, the California Department of Fish and Game listed Ione buckwheat as endangered and Irish Hill buckwheat as rare. In January 1987, the latter variety was upgraded to endangered. The California Native Plant Society has placed both varieties on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range).

CRITICAL HABITAT: None designated.

RECOVERY PLAN: None

5-YEAR REVIEW: Initiated March 5, 2008



Ione Buckwheat
Jeremiah M. Karuzas, USFWS



Irish Hill Buckwheat
Jeremiah M. Karuzas, USFWS

DESCRIPTION:

Eriogonum apricum is a perennial herb in the buckwheat family (Polygonaceae). The species *Eriogonum apricum* includes two varieties: Ione buckwheat (*Eriogonum apricum* var. *apricum*) and Irish Hill buckwheat (*E. apricum* var. *prostratum*).

Ione buckwheat is glabrous (smooth, without hairs or glands) and grows upright 8 to 25 centimeters (3-10 inches) tall. Its leaves are basal, round to oval, and 3 to 10 millimeters (0.1-0.3 inch) long. The calyx (outer whorl of flower parts) is white with reddish midribs. This variety flowers from July to October.

Irish Hill buckwheat has smaller leaves, prostrate inflorescences (flower clusters) and an earlier flowering time. See Jepson Manual, below, for a more detailed description.

DISTRIBUTION:

Eriogonum apricum occurs within openings of Ione chaparral on gravelly red clay soils of the Ione formation. The Ione buckwheat variety is restricted to nine occurrences occupying a total of approximately 10 acres on otherwise barren soils within an area of about 35 square miles in Amador County. One location is managed by the California Department of Fish and Game. The others are mainly on private land. The Bureau of Land Management manages one location.

The two known occurrences of Irish Hill Buckwheat are restricted to private land on Irish Hill and Carbondale Mesa in Amador County. The plants are on less than one acre.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: (Ione buckwheat) Ione (494C) 3812038, Carbondale (495A) 3812141. (Irish Hill buckwheat) Irish Hill (494B) 3812048, Carbondale (495A) 3812141

THREATS:

Mining, clearing of vegetation for agriculture and for fire protection, inadequate regulatory mechanisms, habitat fragmentation, increased residential development and erosion variously threaten populations of these plants.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[General references about California plants](#)

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

[The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California](#). This is the standard reference about California plants. The Manual is available in an [online version](#). See also the [Jepson Online Interchange](#) for updates.

For additional images, see CalPhotos <http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/>.

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