

SILER PINCUSHION CACTUS
(Pediocactus sileri)

STATUS: Threatened (58 FR 68476, December 27, 1993) without critical habitat.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: This cactus is a small, solitary or occasionally clustered, globose cactus about 13.5 cm (5 in) tall (with exceptional specimens reaching 46 cm (18 in)) and 7.6-10.0 cm (3-4 in) in diameter (occasionally larger). Spines are brownish-black, becoming gray to white with age. Flowers are yellowish with maroon veins, 1.9-2.5 cm (0.75-1 in) in diameter and bloom in the spring.

HABITAT: Grows on gypsiferous clay and sandy soils of the Moenkopi Formation. The rounded hills often support a sparser vegetation than adjacent areas of different substrate. Habitat is characterized by desert scrub vegetation, in transitional areas between the Navajo Desert, Sagebrush Desert, and the Mojave Desert. Found at elevations between 850-1,650 m (2,800-5,400 ft), on all aspects of the hills and on slopes varying from 0-80 degrees.

RANGE: Current: Only several locations are known where relatively dense population clusters occur. Individual plants are widely separated in other areas of the Moenkopi that are marginally suitable for this species. All known localities occur in Kane and Washington counties, Utah, and in northern Mohave and northwestern Coconino counties, Arizona.

Potential: Surveys for this species are incomplete. Plants may be found wherever habitat conditions are met.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: This species is vulnerable to threats because of its specific habitat requirements. Threats include illegal collection, herbivory by an unknown animal (possibly a species of rodent), uranium mining and exploration, off-road vehicle disturbance, and pesticide application.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Bureau of Land Management, Kaibab-Paiute Indian Reservation.

NOTES: Protected from international trade by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Also protected by the Arizona Native Plant Law.

A Recovery Plan was approved in April 1986 and is available online at:
<http://arizonaes.fws.gov/Documents/RecoveryPlans/Siler%20Pincushion%20Cactus%20RP.pdf>

Reclassified from endangered to threatened in December 1993.