

**ZUNI FLEABANE**  
**(*Erigeron rhizomatus*)**

**STATUS:** Threatened (50 FR 16682; April 26, 1985) without critical habitat.

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** The Zuni fleabane is a herbaceous perennial that grows as clusters of numerous erect unbranched stems up to 2.0 ft (0.6 m) tall. The leaves are narrow, up to 0.4 inch (1.0 cm) long, and arranged alternately on the stem. Flower heads are solitary at the ends of the stems. The heads are 0.6-0.7 in (13-16 mm) in diameter with pale blue ray flowers and yellow disk flowers. Flowers in May and June.

**HABITAT:** Zuni fleabane grows in selenium-rich red or gray detrital clay soils derived from the Chinle and Baca formations. Plants are found at elevations from 7,300-8,000 ft (2,230-2,440 m) in pinyon-juniper woodland. Zuni fleabane prefers slopes of up to 40 degrees, usually with a north-facing aspect. Although the overall vegetative cover is usually high, there are few other competing plants on the steep easily erodible slopes that are Zuni fleabane's primary habitat.

**RANGE: Current:** Zuni fleabane is found only in areas of suitable soils. These soils occur most extensively in the Sawtooth Mountains and in the northwestern part of the Datil Mountains in Catron County, New Mexico. There are 29 known sites in this area, which range in size from a fraction of an acre to about 260 acres (105 hectares). There are two sites on the northwest side of the Zuni Mountains in McKinley County, New Mexico, and one site in Apache County, Arizona.

**Potential:** Potential habitat for this species is difficult to estimate due to its habitat requirements and the topographic complexity within its range

**REASONS FOR DECLINE / VULNERABILITY:** Threats to this species include potential uranium mining and livestock impacts. Livestock do not graze Zuni fleabane, but sites can be adversely impacted if they are used for holding pastures, or are near stock tanks or salting stations.

**LAND MANAGEMENT / OWNERSHIP:** Navajo Nation.

**NOTES:** Protected by the Arizona Native Plant Law and by the Navajo Nation.

A Recovery Plan for the Zuni fleabane was approved in 1998 and is available online at <http://arizonaes.fws.gov/Documents/RecoveryPlans/Zuni%20Fleabane%20RP.pdf>