

CANELO HILLS LADIES' TRESSES
(Spiranthes delitescens)

STATUS: Endangered (62 FR 665, January 6, 1997) without critical habitat.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: A slender, erect member of the orchid family (Orchidaceae). Flower stalk is about 50 cm (20 in) tall. Plants have 5-10 linear- lanceolate grass-like leaves, 18 cm (7 in) long and 1.5 cm (0.6 in) wide, which grow basally on the stem. The spike (flower stalk) may contain up to 40 white flowers, borne in a spiral on the stem.

HABITAT: Finely grained, highly organic, saturated soils of cienegas. Plants occur intermixed with tall grasses and sedges at an elevation of approximately 1,524 m (5,000 ft).

RANGE: Current: Known from five sites in the San Pedro River watershed in Cochise and Santa Cruz counties.

Potential: Because most southern Arizona cienegas have been thoroughly searched, the possibility of locating new populations in the state is low. However, habitat in New Mexico and Mexico needs to be surveyed.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: Small number of known populations, a habitat type that is rare and declining, and small population sizes make this species vulnerable to extinction. Threats include livestock grazing, improper fire management, competition with aggressive non-native plants, water impoundments or diversion, and groundwater pumping.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Tonto and Coronado National Forests and private lands.

NOTES: Protected by the Arizona Native Plant Law.