



News Release

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Service determines the Bartram Stonecrop and Beardless Chinch Weed May Warrant Federal Protection as Endangered or Threatened

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced today the results of a 90-day finding on a petition to list *Graptopetalum bartramii* (Bartram stonecrop) and *Pectis imberbis* (beardless chinch weed) as endangered or threatened plants under the Endangered Species Act, and to designate critical habitat. Based on our review, we find that the petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that listing Bartram stonecrop and beardless chinch weed may be warranted.

The Service will open a 60 day public comment period and initiate a status review for these species. Comments should be received by October 9, 2012.

To ensure that our status review is comprehensive, we request scientific and commercial data and other information regarding these species. Based on the status review, we will issue a finding on the petition, which will address whether the petitioned action is warranted.

You may submit information by one of the following methods:

(1) *Electronically:* Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> and Search for Docket No. FWS–R2–ES–2012–0047, which is the docket number for this action. If your submission will fit in the provided comment box, please use this feature of <http://www.regulations.gov>, as it is most compatible with our information collection procedures. If you attach your submission as a separate document, our preferred file format is Microsoft Word. If you attach multiple documents (such as form letters), our preferred format is a spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel.

(2) *By hard copy:* Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS–R2–ES–2012–0047; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042–PDM; Arlington, VA 22203.

We will post all information we receive on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us.

The Service was petitioned to add the Bartram stonecrop and beardless chinch weed to the list of threatened and endangered species in July 2010. Per a separate settlement agreement with the petitioners, the Service has scheduled its Endangered Species Act listing program through 2016, so it does not anticipate completing a status assessment and finding whether the Bartram stonecrop or beardless chinch weed warrant listing until after 2016.

Bartram stonecrop is a small, succulent perennial plant in the stonecrop family, with a basal rosette comprising 20 or more flat to concave, smooth, blue-green leaves. It is found in rock crevices, ledges, and gravelly slopes from 3,652 to 6,700 feet in elevation in southern Arizona and Mexico. This species is known in 12 locations in Arizona, including the Baboquivari, Chiricahua, Dripping Spring, Mule, Patagonia, Rincon, Santa Rita, and Tumacacori Mountains in Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz Counties, as well as from one location in Mexico.

Beardless chinch weed is an erect, many-branched, perennial herb with daisy-like flower heads. Populations in the United States occur on lands managed by the Coronado National Forest: the Atascosa, Huachuca, Oro Blanco, Patagonia, and Santa Rita Mountains, and the Canelo Hills of Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona, as well as in Chihuahua and Sonora, Mexico, from 3,773 to 5,660 feet in elevation.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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