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## Summary of the Interagency Rare Plant Inventory Project, 1999-2002!

By Deborah J. Clark, November 8, 2002

This is a sequel to the article printed in the Mar/Apr 2002 issue of the Seigo Lily. As mentioned in the earlier articles, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), USDA Forest Service, Dixie National Forest (DNF), Fishlake National Forest (FNF), and Capitol Reef National Park (CARE) share management responsibilities for many of the same Threatened, Endangered & Sensitive plant species (TES). To enable each of these agencies to better manage their shared TES species, they created an interagency botany position and hired an employee to coordinate surveys and/or monitoring for these species throughout their ranges, regardless of agency boundaries. A BLM employee was hired for this position in 1999 and stationed at CARE as project leader for this effort.



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Through the interagency agreement, the agencies are able to pool funding to extend surveys onto federal lands adjacent to CARE. This expanded the scope of the original National Park Service (NPS) project to include FNF, DNF and BLM administered lands adjacent to CARE.

In 2000, CARE received funding for a three-year rare plant species inventory through the NPS. In 2001 and 2002, CARE received \$1,000 grants from the Utah Native Plant Society to assist with this project. CARE used the grant money to hire students to gain experience working on plant related management issues and to work with the interagency field team. This article will report a summary of our findings for this multi-year inventory.

## The study

The primary purposes of this project were to; (1) conduct intensive surveys for rare endemic plant species on potential habitat within and adjacent to CARE, and (2) determine potential for impact by visitor, recreational or livestock use if possible. In addition, the team continued surveys for two Forest Service species, Arizona Willow (*Salix arizonica*) on FNF and Angell's cinquefoil (*Potentilla angelliae*) on DNF. During all field surveys, teams looked for other TES species when they were in appropriate habitats.

To ensure proper plant identification and increase accuracy, surveys were conducted for the target species from March through September when the majority of plants were in full bloom. Fieldwork began in the early spring at lower elevations and as the season progressed, moved to higher elevations thus ensuring proper search times for each species.

Each area was surveyed by walking meandering transects through all accessible areas and/or by using binoculars to search cliffs.



## Results and Conclusions

Work accomplished in 1999 was included in this article since that year marks the beginning of the interagency agreement and of survey efforts connected with that agreement. Many of the species targeted for surveys with the NPS rare plant inventory project were also considered in 1999. Some of the target species were recorded for the first time on FNF, DNF and CARE, confirming that more work needs to be done before individual species ranges and niches are completely understood and described.

Over the past four years (1999-2002), 32 TES plant species were recorded during this project (Table 1). Eight of these species are federally listed Threatened or Endangered, and one is a Candidate for fed-

eral listing. The remaining 23 Sensitive species are considered Global - G1 or 2/State - S1 or 2/Variety - T1 or 2 ranking by the Utah Natural Heritage Program. This ranking is defined as: G1/S1/T1 - critically endangered throughout its range, extremely rare (5 or fewer occurrences) and; G2/S2/T2 endangered throughout its range, imperiled globally/statewide because of rarity with only 6 to 20 known occurrences.

*For more information:*

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During the past four years, nearly 70,000 acres of federally managed lands were surveyed for the TES plants listed in Table 1, including approximately 28,700 acres on CARE, 16,600 acres on BLM, 10,450 acres on DNF and 13,200 acres on FNF. This acreage represents the



area walked by the field team during their surveys. Over 400 new sites of rare plant species were recorded during the past four years. Many of the species are more common than previously thought. Sufficient data were gathered to propose delisting

one of the federally listed Threatened species and this process will be pursued in 2003 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The total contributed funds for this project from all partners (from 1999 through 2002) was \$359,300. The following partners contributed: NPS \$199,200; BLM \$93,800; FNF \$39,300; DNF \$13,000; Capitol Reef Natural History Association \$12,000; and Utah Native Plant Society \$2,000.

One of the primary benefits of this project was its' multi-agency approach to dealing with TES species throughout their ranges regardless of agency boundaries. Information gathered during this project enables the participating agencies to meet Congress' intent under the ESA, comply

with federal management policies, and address Government Performance and Results Act goals. Knowledge gained about these species and their specific habitat requirements enables federal land managers to ensure that

these plants are protected and will assist in predicting which areas may contain additional occurrences. Results from this project will also help in determining which species should be monitored to find out if any human activities affect them.

**Table 1. Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive plants recorded during this project (1999 – 2002).**

Scientific Name*	Common Name	Agency	#	Rarity/Legal Status
<i>Aliciella cespitosa</i> (formerly <i>Gilia</i> )	Rabbit Valley Gilia	DNF/FNF/CARE	22	<b>Candidate for listing</b>
<i>Aliciella tenuis</i> (formerly <i>Gilia tenuis</i> )	Mussentuchit Gilia	CARE/BLM	21	G1/S1
<i>Astragalus consobrinus</i>	Bicknell Milkvetch	BLM	1	G2G3/S2S3
<i>Astragalus harrisonii</i>	Harrison's Milkvetch	CARE	2	G2G3/S2S3
<i>Astragalus laccoliticus</i>	Caineville Milkvetch	<b>CARE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>G2?/S2?</b>
<i>Castilleja parvula</i> var. <i>parvula</i>	Tushar paintbrush	<b>FNF</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>G2/S2</b>
<i>Cirsium eatonii</i> var. <i>harrisonii</i>	Eaton's thistle	FNF	4	G4G5T1Q/S1
<i>Cycladenia humilis</i> var. <i>jonesii</i>	Jones cycladenia	CARE	1	<b>Threatened</b> - G3G4T2/S2
<i>Cymopterus beckii</i>	Pinnate spring-parsley	DNF/FNF/CARE	42	G1/S1
<i>Draba sobolifera</i>	Creeping draba	FNF	19	G2/S2
<i>Erigeron abajoensis</i>	Abajo daisy	CARE/FNF	2	G1G2/S1S2
<i>Erigeron awapensis</i>	Awapa daisy	FNF/BLM	3	G1Q/S1
<i>Erigeron maguirei</i>	Maguire's daisy	CARE/FNF/BLM	60	<b>Threatened</b> - G2/S2
<i>Eriogonum corymbosum</i> var. <i>revealianum</i>	Reveal's buckwheat	FNF	1	G5T3/S3
<i>Habenaria zothecina</i>	Alcove bog-orchid	DNF/CARE	7	G2/S2
<i>Hymenoxys acaulis</i> var. <i>nana</i>	Cushion golden-flower	BLM/FNF/CARE	30	G5T1T2/S1S2
<i>Lomatium junceum</i>	Rush lomatium	BLM/FNF/CARE	7	G2/S2
<i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>heilii</i>	Heil's beavertail	BLM	1	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Pediocactus despainii</i>	San Rafael cactus	CARE/BLM	28	<b>Endangered</b> - G2/S2
<i>Pediocactus winkleri</i>	Winklers cactus	CARE/BLM	10	<b>Threatened</b> - G1/S1
<i>Penstemon cespitosus</i> var. <i>suffruticosus</i>	Tushar penstemon	FNF	3	G5T2/S2
<i>Physaria acutifolia</i> var. <i>purpurea</i>	Ryberg's twinpod	FNF	1	G5T2/S2
<i>Potentilla angilliae</i>	Angel's cinquefoil	DNF	18	G1/S1
<i>Salix arizonica</i>	Arizona willow	FNF	15	G2G3/S2S3
<i>Schoenocrambe barnebyi</i>	Barneby plains -mustard	BLM	1	<b>Endangered</b> - G1/S1
<i>Sclerocactus wrightiae</i>	Wright's fishhook cactus	BLM/CARE	15	<b>Endangered</b> - G2/S2
<i>Senecio castoreus</i>	Beaver Mountain groundsel	FNF	7	G1/S1
<i>Sphaeralcea psoraloides</i>	Psoralea globemallow	BLM	2	G2/S2
<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Ute's ladies -tresses	none	none	<b>Threatened</b> - G2/S1
<i>Thelesperma subnudum</i> var.	Rabbit Valley greenthread	FNF/DNF/CARE	16	G5T1/S1
<i>Townsendia aprica</i>	Last Chance townsendia	FNF/DNF/BLM/CARE	47	<b>Threatened</b> - G1/S1
<i>Xylorhiza confertifolia</i>	Henrieville woody-aster	DNF	1	G2G3/S2S3

\*Scientific names generally follow Welsh (1993).

# UNPS Board Members 2003

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David Anderson in the Wasatch Mountains with Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany  
(*Cercocarpus ledifolius*)

# Utah Native Plant Society for Life!

By Tony Frates

People join the Utah Native Plant Society (UNPS) for many different reasons. For some, it relates to conservation. For others, it is horticulture. For others, it relates to the desire to learn more about the natural world and the veritable treasure trove that Utah landscape contains. For still others, it is a combination of these and other reasons.

While some may join UNPS for a year simply to try it out and see to what extent it might interest them and/or what benefits they might receive, for most the interest is deep and therefore long term. So even though personal time and involvement may edge and flow over the years, the interest does not. Accordingly, UNPS has from the beginning made available a lifetime membership.

But, over the lifetime of UNPS (some 25 years this year!), that has remained a well-guarded secret. Until now. Consider this:

(1) For \$250, you can become a lifetime member of UNPS. This is an unbelievably low price; act now before our board of directors wakes up and smells the roses! A lifetime membership with just about any other native plant society or any other conservation organization for that matter, would be a lot more (more like \$500, \$1000, \$2500 or more).

(2) Do the math. Many of us have already easily paid this much in membership fees over the years (even though UNPS membership fees have always been incredibly low – in what other organization could you be a member for \$15?)

(3) Show your support and help us do more. In 25 years we've spent thousands of hours dedicated to the cause of appreciating, preserving and conserving Utah's native flora. We've spent thousands of dollars on research projects

through our grants program. We've helped to build awareness and knowledge thru the extensive Utah Heritage Garden program. And our organization has established chapters throughout the state. But we've also just barely scratched the surface. The threatened plant species around which local botanists rallied around and which led to the formation of UNPS in the late 70's are every bit as much in peril today as they were then. Population and development activities have increased at an alarming rate. Exotic species are threatening the welfare of our plant species at an equally alarming rate. The endangered species act remains under continual attack and our state laws remain primitive. The bulk of our citizens still think that "wild" plants are weeds. Efforts must continue and at an accelerated pace, and funding ultimately becomes an essential ingredient determining how much we can and cannot do.

(4) Get a nice tax break. UNPS is a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. That means that your \$250 is a tax deductible charitable contribution.

(5) Never hassle with renewing your membership again. Ever.

(6) Be a part of the first group of people to ever join UNPS as LIFETIME members and get your name in the newsletter (we will of course respect any/all requests to remain anonymous). Here are our current lifetime members who deserve a round of applause for their foresight and support of our cause: **Leila Shultz; Karen Halliday; Phil Wannamaker; J. Keith & Lillian Hayes; Rick DeLappe and Cheryl Decker; Larry and Corky England.** (Did we miss anyone? If so, we apologize, please E-mail us at [unps@unps.org](mailto:unps@unps.org) so that we can update our list.)

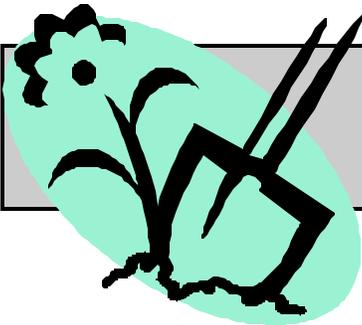
(7) Has UNPS been worth it to you whether directly or indirectly at a \$10 per year rate for the last 25 years as an organization? Or, looking at it another way, how about joining us for the next 25 years?

Don't want to write out a check? No problem. Go to [www.unps.org](http://www.unps.org), click on Membership then Membership (Renewal or New) Application. Scroll down to "Lifetime" and click on PayPal and pay us by credit card! (Even if becoming a lifetime member right now is not feasible for you, note that you can renew your current membership in this same fashion.) Or just write out a check and send it to:

Utah Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 520041,  
Salt Lake City UT 84152-0041

Here's one last reason: **become a lifetime member in 2003** to help us celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization and we'll send you our popular Utah Wildflowers and Endangered and Threatened Plants of Utah posters **absolutely free!**

While UNPS will survive regardless of how many members it has, the member base ultimately determines its vitality. So to all of our current members at whatever level you have chosen to join, thank you!



## Events and Chapter News

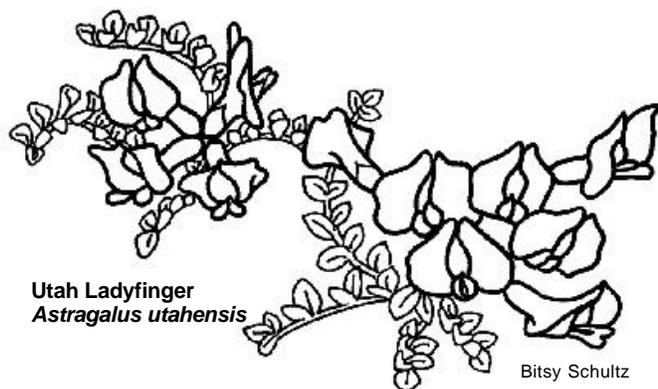
Wayne Grzymkowski, Landscaping Supervisor Region 2 for Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) has asked UNPS to organize weeding groups for Spring 2003 along the native plant landscaped sections of Interstate 215 through Salt Lake City. These are primarily tree and shrub plantings. The plantings have been completed in so-called "amoebas"; areas irrigated with sprinklers; UDOT would have preferred to use targeted drip systems but there were insufficient funds. Weeds have become a problem because of the sprinkler irrigation.

They have used some herbicides, and they may also utilize some biological controls on several species, but what is really needed is native- versus invasive weeds-educated hand weeding. If you have a church, Scout, or other group who could be enlisted for a Saturday morning or after school, UNPS could provide a team leader to show the group which are desirable plants and which are weeds to be pulled.

People interested in participating in hand weeding will be organized into Adopt-a-Highway type groups. Contact Therese Meyer (801 272-3275 or email [tmeyer@xmission.com](mailto:tmeyer@xmission.com)) if you are interested in this project.

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For more information about the Utah Native Plant Society call:  
Bill King: 582-0432  
Susan Garvin: 356-5108  
Larry Meyer: 272-3275  
Or write to: [unps@unps.org](mailto:unps@unps.org)

UTAH NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
President: Susan Meyer  
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Check membership category desired:

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? Please send a complimentary copy of the Se-go Lily to the above individual.

Please enclose a check, payable to Utah Native Plant Society and send it to:

Membership  
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P.O.Box 520041  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84152-0041

**Check out our website!**  
[www.unps.org](http://www.unps.org)

Many thanks to Xmission for sponsoring the Utah Native Plant Society website.

Please direct all suggestions, articles and events for the newsletter to Paula Mohadjer at [paulam@jvwcd.org](mailto:paulam@jvwcd.org). **The deadline for next issue is February 15.**

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