

CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT AND LISTING PRIORITY ASSIGNMENT FORM

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Erigeron lemmonii*

COMMON NAME: Lemmon fleabane

LEAD REGION: Region 2

INFORMATION CURRENT AS OF: February 2003

STATUS/ACTION (Check all that apply):

New candidate

Continuing candidate

Non-petitioned

Petitioned - Date petition received: July, 1975

90-day positive - FR date:

12-month warranted but precluded - FR date:

Is the petition requesting a reclassification of a listed species?

Listing priority change

Former LP:

New LP:

Latest date species first became a Candidate: July 1, 1975

Candidate removal: Former LP:  (Check only one reason)

A - Taxon more abundant or widespread than previously believed or not subject to a degree of threats sufficient to warrant issuance of a proposed listing or continuance of candidate status.

F - Range is no longer a U.S. territory.

M - Taxon mistakenly included in past notice of review.

N - Taxon may not meet the Act's definition of *Species*.@

X - Taxon believed to be extinct.

ANIMAL/PLANT GROUP AND FAMILY: Plant, *Asteraceae*

HISTORICAL STATES/TERRITORIES/COUNTRIES OF OCCURRENCE: Arizona

CURRENT STATES/COUNTIES/TERRITORIES/COUNTRIES OF OCCURRENCE: Cochise County, Arizona

LEAD REGION CONTACT: Susan Jacobsen (505-248-6641)

LEAD FIELD OFFICE CONTACT: Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, Tucson sub-office, Mima Falk (520-670-4550)

**BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION** (Describe habitat, historic vs. current range, historic vs. current population estimates (# populations, #individuals/population), etc.):

This prostrate perennial fleabane occurs in crevices and ledges of west-, south- and north-facing limestone cliffs and on faces of large boulders in canyon bottoms within the pine-oak woodland association at elevations from 6300 to 7300 feet (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1992). The species is now only known from one site on the Fort Huachuca Military Reservation of southeastern Arizona. Approximately 70 individuals are at this site. The Arizona Game and Fish Department (1999) concurs that only 1 known site currently exists - the 6 other historical occurrence sites were likely mis-identified. The type specimen was probably from Scheelite Canyon, a tributary of Garden Canyon.

**THREATS** (Describe threats in terms of the five factors in section 4 of the ESA providing specific, substantive information. **If this is a removal of a species from candidate status or a change in listing priority, explain reasons for change**):

A. The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range.

Virtually any habitat change is a serious threat to the species because it only occurs as a single population. Due to its vertical cliff face habitat, many of the more usual impacts (e.g., grazing, development) are unlikely. The single largest threat to the species is from catastrophic wildfire in the canyon where the plant occurs. An intense wildfire in the narrow canyon would almost certainly desiccate plants on the cliff face, possibly directly killing individuals or stressing out plants that could lead to lower reproductive output. The landowner (DOD, Ft. Huachuca) is willing to develop a conservation agreement for this species. Measures have been taken to reduce the threat of wildfire (the entire range of this species is within the federally listed Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center) and also the threats from recreational rappelling, which is not allowed on the cliff faces occupied by the plant.

B. Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes.

None known.

C. Disease or predation.

None known.

D. The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms.

This species is protected (restrictions on collection) by the Arizona Native Plant Law and is designated by the Forest Service as a sensitive species. Arizona Native Plant Law prohibits collection without obtaining a permit and plants may not be moved off of private property without contacting the State.

E. Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

Because it occurs as a single population, this species is vulnerable to extinction by a natural or human-caused catastrophic event.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR REMOVAL OR LISTING PRIORITY CHANGE:

N/A

FOR RESUBMITTED PETITIONS: N/A

- a. Is listing still warranted? \_\_\_
- b. To date, has publication of a proposal to list been precluded by other higher priority listing actions? \_\_\_
- c. Is a proposal to list the species as threatened or endangered in preparation? \_\_\_
- d. If the answer to c. above is no, provide an explanation of why the action is still precluded: Since publication of the 2002 CNOR, the publication of a proposed rule to list this species has been precluded by other higher priority listing actions, and based on work scheduled we expect that will remain the case for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2004. Almost the entire national listing budget has been consumed by work on various listing actions taken to comply with court orders and court-approved settlement agreements, emergency listing, and essential litigation-related, administrative, and program management functions. We will continue to monitor the status of the Lemmon fleabane as new information becomes available. This review will determine if a change in status is warranted, including the need to make prompt use of emergency listing procedures.

LAND OWNERSHIP (Estimate proportion Federal/state/local government/private, identify non-private owners): All known locations of the plant are on the Fort Huachuca Military Reservation and possibly on the Coronado National Forest.

PRELISTING (Describe status of conservation agreements or other conservation activities): No prelisting activities are underway at this time, although Ft. Huachuca has indicated a willingness to start work on a conservation agreement (pers. comm. Sheridan Stone, February 2001).

REFERENCES:

- Arizona Game and Fish Department. 1999. Heritage Data Management System: Plants-Status and Occurrences. Phoenix, Arizona.
- Brooks, A. 1999. *Erigeron lemmonii* (Lemmon fleabane), *Asteraceae*. Edited by M. Falk. Draft abstract from Arizona Rare Plant Book.
- Gori, D. F., P. L. Warren, and L. S. Anderson. 1990-. Population studies of sensitive plants of the Huachuca, Patagonia, and Atascosa Mountains, Arizona. Unpublished report by The Nature Conservancy prepared for Coronado National Forest, Tucson, Arizona.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1992. Handbook of Arizona=s Endangered Threatened, and Candidate Plants. Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, Phoenix, Arizona.

## LISTING PRIORITY

THREAT
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Magnitude	Immediacy	Taxonomy	Priority	
High	Imminent	Monotypic genus	1	
		Species	2	
		Subspecies/population	3	
	Non-imminent	Non-imminent	Monotypic genus	4
			Species	<b>5*</b>
			Subspecies/population	6
Moderate to Low	Imminent	Monotypic genus	7	
		Species	8	
		Subspecies/population	9	
	Non-imminent	Non-imminent	Monotypic genus	10
			Species	11
			Subspecies/population	12

**Rationale for listing priority number:**

*Magnitude:* Species is represented by a single population in one canyon in southeast Arizona. It is not known if the type collection in Tanner (= Garden) Canyon has been extirpated or if the site is where the present population exists today (Scheelite Canyon). Surveys have not located this species in Garden Canyon. A single population is very vulnerable to extinction by natural stochastic events or human-caused events (e.g., catastrophic wildlife).

*Imminence:* A population exists on Department of Defense (DOD) (Ft. Huachuca) lands. DOD has removed threats (rappelling on cliff faces) and continues to address wildfire concerns in the canyon. Past monitoring shows a stable population, but DOD needs to continue monitoring, especially through this current drought period.

APPROVAL/CONCURRENCE: Lead Regions must obtain written concurrence from all other Regions within the range of the species before recommending changes to the candidate list, including listing priority changes; the Regional Director must approve all such recommendations. The Director must concur on all additions of species to the candidate list, removal of candidates, and listing priority changes.

Approve: Tom Bauer  
Acting Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

March 14, 2003  
Date

Concur: Steve Williams  
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

April 5, 2004  
Date

Do not concur: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

Date

Director's Remarks:

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Date of annual review: Feb. 2003

Conducted by: Mima Falk

Comments:

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(rev. 7/02)