

Recovery Plan for Seven Coastal Plants and the Myrtle's Silverspot Butterfly

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Original Approved: September 29, 1998

Original Prepared by: USFWS, Portland, OR

Recovery Criteria Clarification

Section 4(f)(1)(B)(ii) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) requires that each recovery plan developed for a listed species incorporates, to the maximum extent practicable, "objective, measurable criteria which, when met, would result in a determination...that the species be removed from the list." Recovery criteria therefore serve as guidelines to assist in determining when a species has recovery to the point that it may be downlisted to threatened or that the protections afforded by the Act are no longer necessary and the species may be delisted.

The Service published the Recovery Plan for Seven Coastal Plants and the Myrtle's Silverspot Butterfly in 1998, which addresses several endangered plants and the threatened *Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens* (Monterey spineflower). In addressing delisting criteria, the original recovery plan (p. 90-91) provides general criteria for all the covered plants and states:

The threatened *Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens* (Monterey spineflower) may be considered for delisting when: 1) the Fort Ord disposal and reuse process has led the management agencies to develop, fund, and implement permanent protection plans for the species' habitat including permanent iceplant suppression programs, and 2) beach-dune occurrences on State Park and private lands throughout its current range from Santa Cruz to the Monterey Peninsula are covered under a permanent protection plan. Plans at the time of writing to conserve roughly 60 percent of Fort Ord appear sufficient for recovery of the interior occurrence. A reassessment would be made should plans call for conservation of less habitat. Existing management along the coast at the State Parks units need to be supplemented with protection and management on private lands to be determined after a thorough analysis of the beach populations.

In the interest of ensuring these delisting criteria are articulated clearly and consistently, we are amending the following clarification to the existing recovery plan. This amendment does not represent a revision of the delisting criteria, it simply provides more consistent, specific terminology.

Chorizanthe pungens var. *pungens* (Monterey spineflower) may be considered for delisting when:

1. The Fort Ord disposal and reuse process has led management agencies to develop, fund, and implement permanent protection plans for the species' habitat (roughly 60 percent of Fort Ord) including permanent iceplant suppression programs.
2. Beach-dune occurrences on State Park and private lands throughout its current range from Santa Cruz to the Monterey Peninsula are covered under a permanent protection plan.
3. Populations in the protected areas are stable or increasing over a 15 year period, which will include wet and drought years.

These criteria ensure that the underlying causes of decline are addressed. We will continue to update or revise these criteria as new information becomes available or if new threats to the species become apparent. When delisting a species, we first propose the action in the *Federal Register* and seek both public comment and peer review. Our final decision is announced in the *Federal Register*.

Approved: _____



Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Date: _____

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