

Last Chance Townsendia

Townsendia aprica



Last Chance townsendia / usfws

What does the Last Chance townsendia look like?

The Last Chance townsendia (*Townsendia aprica*) is a low-growing perennial herb in the sunflower family. The species is stemless, with its leaves and flowers around ground level. It measures less than one inch tall and 1 - 2 inches wide. Last Chance townsendia has narrow leaves measuring about 0.5 inches long which are covered with fine hairs. The flower is apricot to yellow-orange in color with a darker colored center than the outer petals. Flowering occurs from April to May while fruiting occurs from May to June.



Last Chance townsendia in habitat / Daniela Roth, USFWS

Last Chance townsendia is easily distinguished from other townsendias by the yellow flowers and the short bristles at the top of the ray flower seeds (< 0.04 inch).

Where does the Last Chance townsendia occur?

Last Chance townsendia is endemic to central Utah, where it occurs in Emery, Sevier, and Wayne counties.

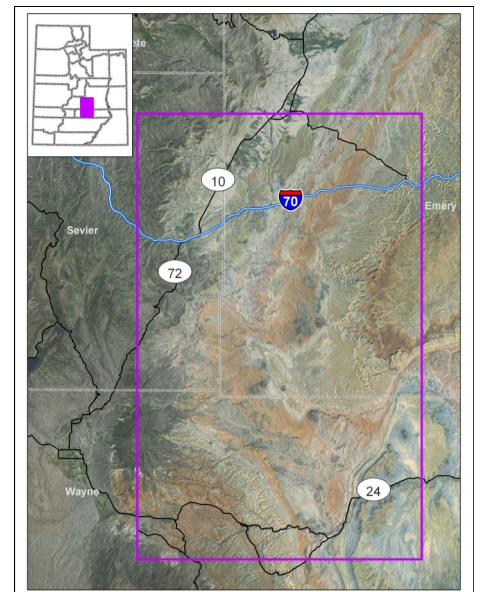
Soils that allow the species to grow typically have unusual chemistries. The soils are derived from shale lenses with very fine silt textures and high alkalinity. The species is associated with the piñon-juniper grasslands community of the Mancos Shale Formation, and occurs between 6,100 - 8,000 feet in elevation.

Legal Status under the Endangered Species Act

Last Chance townsendia was listed as threatened on August 21, 1985 (50 FR 33734).

Why does the Last Chance townsendia need protection?

Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation are the largest threats this species faces today.



Species range / USFWS

Sources of these threats include coal mining, road developments, recreational off-road vehicle use, and grazing. In addition, the species' specific soil requirements result in very limited habitat availability. Erosion and competition from exotic and native plant species are also reasons this species needs protection.



Last Chance townsendia compared to a quarter / Daniela Roth, USFWS

What have we done to recover the Last Chance townsendia?

In August 1993, we published a recovery plan that lists necessary actions to recover the species. We are working with our Federal, State, and private partners to implement these recovery efforts. We worked with Federal land management agencies to reduce impacts from coal mining and exploration, off-road vehicle usage, and grazing. We worked with State and local governments to reduce impacts from road projects. We surveyed much of the species' habitat and located



Close-up view / Daniela Roth, USFWS

additional populations. The Bureau of Land Management established one population trend monitoring site.

Despite our better understanding of this species' distribution, Last Chance townsendia continues to decline across the majority of its range.

What do we need to do to recover the Last Chance townsendia?

Many populations of Last Chance townsendia are declining for unknown reasons.

We need to continue research into this species' life history and ecology to better understand the underlying causes of the decline. This information will guide management decisions for Last Chance townsendia.

We need to continue surveying and monitoring potential habitat and population trends to identify threats and evaluate recovery success throughout the species' range. We need to continue to work with Federal, State, and private partners to implement recovery

actions and determine important areas for long-term species conservation.

More Information

To learn more about the Last Chance townsendia and conservation efforts on behalf of the species, please visit the following sites:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program's website:
www.fws.gov/endangered

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information, Planning and Conservation (IPaC) System:
ecos.fws.gov/ipac

Mountain-Prairie Regional Office's website: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/plants/>

The Utah Field Office's website: www.fws.gov/utahfieldoffice

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 6**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PO Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225**

**Utah Field Office
(801) 975 - 3330**

July 2012

