

Kremmling beardtongue

Penstemon penlandii



Kremmling beardtongue / Gina Glenne, USFWS

When Congress passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973, it recognized that many of our nation's native plants and animals were in danger of becoming extinct. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the ESA to preserve these imperiled species and their habitats for future generations.

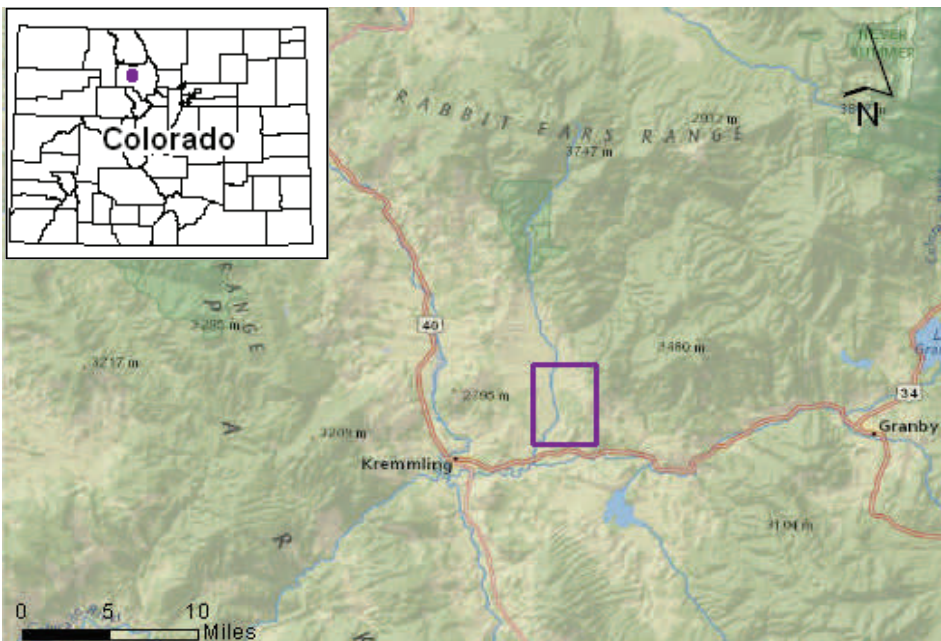
Kremmling (Penland) beardtongue was listed as endangered on July 13, 1989 (54 FR 29658).

What does the Kremmling beardtongue look like?

The Kremmling beardtongue (also known as the Penland beardtongue) is a herbaceous (non-woody) plant species in the plantain family (Plantaginaceae) (formerly in the figwort family). It is a compact, clumping plant with straight and pointed dark green, inrolled leaves. The plant grows 2 to 6 inches tall and up to 8 inches wide from a spreading and deep root system, which secures the plant in the highly erodible soils of its habitat. Its flowers are blue-violet and tubular, measuring



Kremmling milkvetch / J. Florey, BLM



3/4 inch long. In June and July you can find the showy Kremmling beardtongue in bloom.

Where does the Kremmling beardtongue grow?

The Kremmling beardtongue is endemic to Middle Park in Grand County of northern Colorado, near the town of Kremmling. Middle Park is a high elevation sagebrush valley at 7,500 feet nestled within the Rocky Mountains. The Kremmling beardtongue is only known to occur on white to tan barren shale soil exposures. There is only one population of the Kremmling beardtongue in the whole world—making the Kremmling beardtongue a local treasure.



Kremmling beardtongue habitat / USFWS

What can you do to help conserve the Kremmling beardtongue?

- “Stay the trail.”
- Funding and assistance may be available to help conserve the species on private and local government lands. Funding opportunities could include costs for fencing, tax credits, or assistance with conservation easements.
- Spread the word about this local treasure!
- Contact us and network with others working to conserve the species.
- Participate in recovery planning, conservation, and outreach efforts.



Kremmling beardtongue fruits / Megan McGuire, BLM

Why does the Kremmling beardtongue need protection?

The Kremmling beardtongue is threatened by off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation, road maintenance, fugitive dust from nearby roads, and utility maintenance. The species’ extremely small range and limited habitat availability make it more susceptible to extinction than other species with broader ranges. Therefore, protection of existing populations is vital to the survival of the species. Additional threats include climate change and nonnative invasive plant (weeds). Protection of native bee pollinators and their nesting habitat is also essential to the Kremmling beardtongue’s survival.

- An Area of Critical Environmental Concern to protect the species and its fragile habitat will likely be designated in the near future.

What do we need to do to recover the Kremmling beardtongue?

- Continue surveying for and monitoring populations.
- Conduct education and outreach in the community.
- Work to restrict travel to designated roadways to minimize impacts of OHV’s.
- Help private landowners and the State to conserve the species, its habitat, and areas for pollinators.
- Establish additional conservation areas on Federal, State, and private lands.
- Address the impacts from land development, fugitive dust, utility maintenance, OHV use, and other land uses.

What have we done to recover the Kremmling beardtongue?

We have worked with Federal and State partners to implement recovery objectives, including:

- Numerous research and conservation projects have been funded and conducted including life history and reproduction studies, genetic research, and propagation.
- The Rare Plant Conservation Initiative has developed a Conservation Action Plan for the rare and threatened species in the Middle Park area outlining and prioritizing conservation actions.
- Monitoring plots have been established on Federal and State lands.



Kremmling beardtongue close-up / Alicia Langton, USFWS

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