

Dudley Bluffs bladderpod

Physaria (formerly Lesquerella) congesta

Dudley Bluffs bladderpod close-up / 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 (Service) administers the ESA to preserve these imperiled species and their habitats for future generations.

On February 6th, 1990, the Dudley Bluffs bladderpod was listed as a threatened species (55 FR 4152 5157).

What does the Dudley Bluffs bladderpod look like?

Dudley Bluffs bladderpod is a herbaceous (non-woody) plant species in the mustard family (Brassicaceae). It is an extremely

small cushion plant growing only 1 to 3 cm (0.4 to 1.2 inches) in diameter. It has small silvery leaves clustered at the base and attached to a large woody taproot. In late April to late May the Dudley Bluffs bladderpod is easy to spot when its bright yellow flowers bloom. The rest of the year it is inconspicuous and may go unnoticed. Seeds are contained in small air-filled sacs, hence the common name "bladderpod."

Where does the Dudley Bluffs bladderpod occur?

Dudley Bluffs bladderpod is only known to occur in the Piceance Creek area, of Rio Blanco County in western Colorado, near the town of Meeker. Dudley Bluffs bladderpod is located primarily within the Duck

Creek drainage. Its known habitat is flat or low angled slopes of the Thirteenmile Creek and Yellow Creek tongues of the Green River Formation. These shale outcrops have little soil development and are very harsh for plant growth; only plants adapted to survive in these conditions may thrive.

Why does the Dudley Bluffs bladderpod need protection?

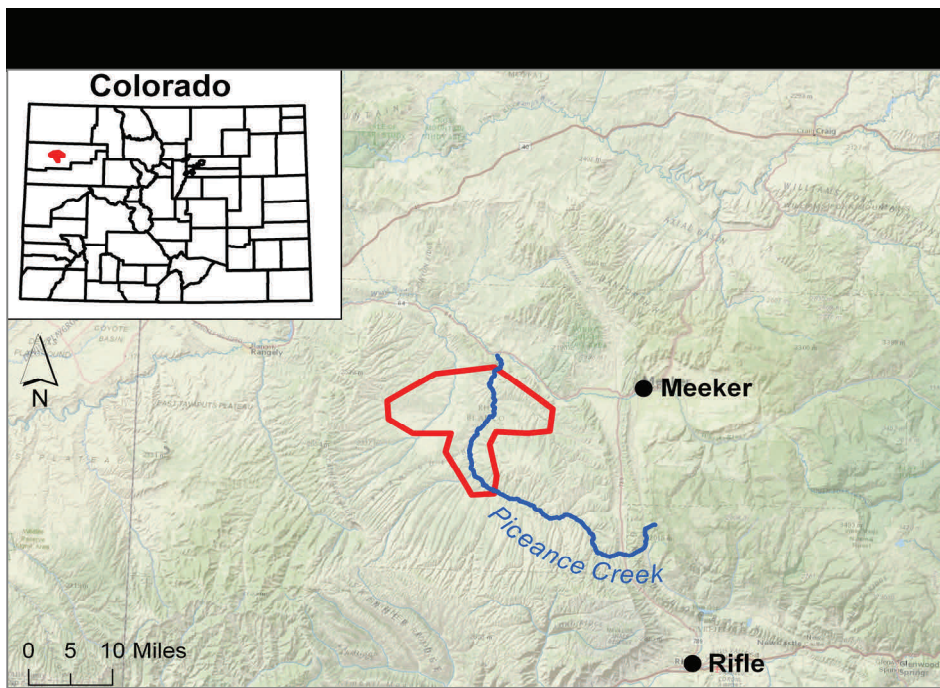
The unique geology of the Piceance Creek area is important to the Dudley Bluffs bladderpod (and many other endemic plant species). It is also part of the Piceance Basin's multimineral oil shale zone, an area containing large reserves of oil shale, natural gas, and minerals. Energy exploration, extraction, and the



Dudley Bluffs bladderpod / BLM



Energy development near Dudley Bluffs bladderpod habitat / USFWS



Dudley Bluffs bladderpod habitat map

- Obtain available funding and assistance to help conserve the species on private and local government lands. Opportunities could include costs for fencing, tax credits, or assistance with conservation easements.
- Join the conversation! Contact us and network with others working to conserve the Dudley Bluffs bladderpod.
- Participate in recovery planning, conservation, and outreach efforts.
- Spread the word about this local treasure!
- Become a volunteer steward with the Colorado Natural Areas Program! Visit: <http://www.parks.state.co.us/NaturalResources/CNAP/Pages/CNAP.aspx>

many associated activities in the region can disturb or degrade the fragile shale habitats. They can also pose a threat to native ground nesting bees that pollinate Dudley Bluffs bladderpod. These threats and others, including weed invasion and increased access to these remote areas by recreationists must be addressed by the Service, Federal, State, and private partners to protect and conserve this species.

What has been done to recover the Dudley Bluffs bladderpod?

The Service adopted a Recovery Plan for the Dudley Bluffs bladderpod in 1993. The collaborative work of numerous Federal, State, and private partners has:

- Avoided, minimized, and mitigated threats by working with partners to design and implement conservation measures.
- Established population monitoring to observe trends and allow partners to respond to impacts.
- Designated three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) to conserve the species on public lands.
- Conducted vital research on life history and reproductive requirements, genetics, and reintroduction potential.

What needs to be done to recover the Dudley Bluffs bladderpod?

- Continue working with partners to design and implement conservation measures.
- Continue surveying for and monitoring populations.
- 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.
- Conduct education and outreach in the community.

What can you do to help conserve the Dudley Bluffs bladderpod?

- “Stay the trail” and “tread lightly.”
- Request information about how to avoid this sensitive species and its habitat at the local BLM or State office.



Dudley Bluffs bladderpod with fruits / Jill Handwerk CNHP



Dudley Bluffs bladderpod in bloom / USFWS

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