

2021 Addendum – Changes to Utah Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Summary of 2021 changes to Utah SGCN list

Remove these 13 SGCNs from 2015-2025 Utah Wildlife Action Plan:

Justification 1: reassessment of status and trends factors:

- **Big free-tailed bat.** Reassessment of status and trends resulted in this species no longer meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.
- **Desert night lizard.** Reassessment of status and trends resulted in this species no longer meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.
- **Utah milksnake.** Reassessment of status and trends resulted in this subspecies no longer meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.

Justification 2: reassessment of socio-economic factors:

- **American bison.** Reassessment of socio-economic factors resulted in this species no longer meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.
- **Black-necked gartersnake.** Reassessment of socio-economic factors resulted in this species no longer meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.
- **Bighorn sheep.** Reassessment of socio-economic factors resulted in this species no longer meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.
- **Great Plains toad.** Reassessment of socio-economic factors resulted in this species no longer meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.
- **Many-lined skink.** Reassessment of socio-economic factors resulted in this species no longer meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.
- **Mexican spadefoot.** Reassessment of socio-economic factors resulted in this species no longer meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.
- **Plains spadefoot.** Reassessment of socio-economic factors resulted in this species no longer meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.
- **Smith's black-headed snake.** Reassessment of socio-economic factors resulted in this species no longer meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.
- **Spotted leaf-nosed snake.** Reassessment of socio-economic factors resulted in this species no longer meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.
- **Western threadsnake.** Reassessment of socio-economic factors resulted in this species no longer meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.

Add these 39 SGCNs to 2015-2025 Utah Wildlife Action Plan:

Justification 1: reassessment of threats factors:

- **Long-eared Myotis.** Reassessment of threats resulted in this species now meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.
- **Long-legged Myotis.** Reassessment of threats resulted in this species now meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.

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- **Yuma Myotis.** Reassessment of threats resulted in this species now meeting our SGCN inclusion criteria.

Justification 2: expansion of life forms considered for SGCN designation¹, using current criteria:

- **Autumn buttercup.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Barneby ridge-cress.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Barneby reed-mustard.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Cisco milkvetch.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Clay Phacelia.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Clay reed-mustard.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate insects for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Deseret milkvetch.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Despain pincushion cactus.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Dwarf bearclaw-poppy.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Gierisch's globemallow.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Goose Creek milkvetch.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Graham's beardtongue.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Great Basin silverspot butterfly.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate insects for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Heliotrope milkvetch.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.

¹ See page 11 of the 2015-2025 Utah Wildlife Action Plan (UWAP) for a discussion of "jurisdictional wildlife", which were the only taxa UDWR made eligible for consideration and designation as SGCNs. At the time of its preparation (ca. 2012-2015) plants and insects were determined to be outside the scope of the planning effort. Since the UWAP is a plan for a variety of stakeholders, UDWR is proposing some plants and insects for inclusion as SGCNs in this minor revision and expects to move toward incorporating additional plant and insect species in the future. All plants and insects proposed in this minor revision satisfy the UDWR's existing criteria-based process of evaluation before SGCN designation.

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- **Isely's milkvetch.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Jones Cycladenia.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Kodachrome bladderpod.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Last Chance Townsendia.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Maguire primrose.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Mojave poppy bee.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate insects for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Monarch butterfly.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate insects for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Navajo sedge.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Paradox milkvetch.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Pariette cactus.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Shivwits milkvetch.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Shrubby reed-mustard.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Siler pincushion cactus.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Stage Station milkvetch.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Uinta Basin hookless cactus.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Ute ladies' tresses.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Welsh's milkweed.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Western bumble bee.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate insects for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **White River beardtongue.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Winkler's pincushion cactus.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.
- **Wright fishhook cactus.** Heretofore, only jurisdictional wildlife were eligible for SGCN designation. We now evaluate plants for SGCN designation. This species meets current criteria.

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Locations of these changes in the Plan:

Plants and insects are new to our SWAP. These additions will modify:

- Table 2, Utah Species of Greatest Conservation Need, on or around SWAP page 17 (in the case of Plants) and SWAP page 15 (in the case of Insects), and also
- Appendix – Species Accounts on or around SWAP page 293 (in the case of Plants) and SWAP page 267 (in the case of Insects).

Toads and spadefoots are amphibians. Amphibian changes will modify:

- Table 2, Utah Species of Greatest Conservation Need, on SWAP page 14, and also
- Table 1, Appendix – SGCNs Methods on SWAP page 241, as well as
- Appendix – Species Accounts (Amphibians) on or around SWAP page 242.

Sheep, bats, and bison are mammals. Mammal changes will modify:

- Table 2, Utah Species of Greatest Conservation Need on or around SWAP page 15, and also
- Appendix – Species Accounts (Mammals) on or around SWAP page 268.

Lizards and snakes are reptiles. Reptile changes will modify:

- Table 2, Utah Species of Greatest Conservation Need, on SWAP page 17, and also
- Table 1, Appendix – SGCNs Methods on SWAP page 241, as well as
- Appendix – Species Accounts (Reptiles) on or around SWAP page 293.

Species accounts for new Utah SGCNs

Autumn Buttercup (*Ranunculus aestivalis*)

Description

- A small, perennial herb with yellow flowers and alternately divided leaves. Grows in wet communities on islands of peaty hummocks.
- Federally listed as endangered in 1989.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2019; S1/N1.
- Restricted to the Sevier River Valley of Garfield County.
- Only three occurrences are known.

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Barneby Ridge-cress (*Lepidium barnebyanum*)

Description

- A perennial herb in the Mustard family that forms dense cushions with many white to yellow flowers. Grows along semi-barren ridges in pinyon-juniper woodlands.
- Federally listed as endangered in 1990.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2009; S1/N1.
- Known only from Duchesne County, Utah.

Barneby Reed-Mustard (*Hesperidanthus barnebyi*)

Description

- A perennial herb in the Mustard family with white to lilac flowers. Grows on steep eroding slopes with sparse vegetation, including mixed desert shrub and pinyon-juniper communities.
- Federally listed as endangered in 1992.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2009; S1/N1.
- Known only from Emery and Wayne Counties, Utah. Populations primarily occur in the San Rafael Swell and Capitol Reef National Park.

Cisco Milkvetch (*Astragalus sabulosus*)

Description

- A clump-forming plant in the Legume family with yellow flowers and large, drooping, sausage-shaped fruits. Grows on Mancos shale, with mat-atriplex and shadscale plant communities.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2019; S1/N1.
- Restricted to the Cisco Desert of Green River Valley in Grand County, Utah.

Clay Phacelia (*Phacelia argillacea*)

Description

- An annual plant with abundantly hairy herbage and blue to violet flowers. Grows on steep, barren slopes of shale in sparse pinyon-juniper and mountain brush communities.
- Federally listed as endangered in 1978.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2012; S1/N1.
- Known occurrences limited to two populations in Utah County.

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Clay Reed-mustard (*Hesperidanthus argillaceus*)

Description

- A perennial herb in the Mustard family with small white to lilac flowers. Tends to grow on north facing slopes with surface bedrock, scree, and fine textured soils. The soils are often gypsum-rich clays overlain with sandstone talus.
- Federally listed as threatened in 1992.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2009; S1/N1.
- Restricted to the Book Cliffs area of Uintah County in northeastern Utah.

Coral Pink Sand Dunes Tiger Beetle (*Cicindella albissima*)

Description

- A 1-cm-long tiger beetle with large eyes and mandibles and long, hairy legs. Head and legs are metallic green. Elytra are ivory-colored with a dorsal copper stripe.
- Adult beetles patrol dune crests and hunt for insect prey. Requires vegetated interdunal swales for suitable larval habitat (requires 2-3 years to complete life cycle).
- Proposed as federally threatened in 2012 but withdrawn in response to conservation strategy and agreement.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2006; S1/N1.
- Current population estimate is approximately 3,200 adults. Restricted to a narrow, 8 mi² dune system in Kane County, Utah.

Deseret Milkvetch (*Astragalus desereticus*)

Description

- Perennial, almost stemless legume with white flowers with pinkish wings and deep pink keel tip.
- Federally listed as threatened in 1999, delisted in 2018. Now in obligatory post-delisting monitoring, in order to achieve recovered status.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2018; S1/N1.
- Restricted to steep south and west facing slopes of the Moroni Formation near the town of Birdseye in Utah County, Utah.

Despain Pincushion Cactus (*Pediocactus despainii*)

Description

- Small cactus, usually with solitary spines. The crown of the stem at or near the ground level.

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- Grows in desert pavements of cobble or pebble with mixed desert shrub and pinyon-juniper woodlands.
- Federally listed as endangered in 1987.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 1987; S2/N2.
- Known only from Wayne and Emery Counties, Utah.

Dwarf Bearclaw-Poppy (*Arctomecon humilis*)

Description

- Perennial plant with showy white flowers. Leaves are three-toothed and hairy, resembling a bear claw. Restricted to sparsely vegetated, gypsum soils. Reproduces sexually by seed, seed bank critical for species protection.
- Federally listed as endangered in 1979.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2013; S1/N1.
- Restricted to a small area of Washington County, within the vicinity of St. George.

Gierisch's globemallow (*Sphaeralcea gierischii*)

Description

- Perennial plant with deeply lobed leaves and orange flowers. Grows on gypsiferous soils, primarily on the Harrisburg Member of the Kaibab formation. Associated with warm desert shrub communities.
- Federally listed as endangered in 2013.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2013; S1/N1.
- Restricted to a small area near the Utah-Arizona state line. In Utah, only known in Washington County.

Goose Creek Milkvetch (*Astragalus anserinus*)

Description

- Small perennial plant in the Legume family with pink flowers followed by thinly villous pods. Grows on white tuffaceous outcrops in sagebrush and pinyon-juniper communities.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2004; S2/N2.
- Restricted to the northwest corner of Utah, extending into southern Idaho and northeastern Nevada. In Utah, known only from Box Elder County.

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Graham's Beardtongue (*Penstemon grahamii*)

Description

- Perennial plant with lavender flowers and thick, leathery leaves. Grows on gravelly clay soils of white calcareous shale knolls.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2009; S2/N2.
- Restricted to the Uinta Basin of northeastern Utah, extending into Colorado.

Great Basin Silverspot Butterfly (*Speyeria nokomis nokomis*)

Description

- Relatively large fritillary butterfly with silvery-white spots on ventral hindwing; males are bright orange with black markings, females are creamy yellow with brown markings.
- Reproduces sexually, completing full life cycle in one year; overwinter as pupae with adults emerging in spring. Requires bog violets (*Viola nephrophylla*) as exclusive larval host plant, woody vegetation as overwintering shelter for pupae, and a variety of flowering plants for adult nectar sources.
- Petitioned for federal listing in 2013; listing determination pending in FY2021.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2019; S2/N3.
- Range encompasses east-central Utah, western Colorado, northern New Mexico, and Chuska Mountains of Arizona; found in moist habitats in mostly open meadows in mountain valleys and floodplains from 5,200-8,300 ft. where bog violets and nectar plants occur.
- Currently 20 colonies representing 11 populations are distributed across known range.

Heliotrope Milkvetch (*Astragalus montii*)

Description

- Small, tufted perennial plant in the Legume family with pink to purple flowers and mottled fruits. Grows in sub-alpine to alpine habitats in openings of spruce-fir forests or plateau margins.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2020, S3/N3.
- Restricted to Tertiary Flagstaff limestone on the Wasatch Plateau in Sanpete and Sevier Counties.

Isely's Milkvetch (*Astragalus iselyi*)

Description

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- Perennial plant in the Legume family with white flowers, drooping fruits and red stems. Grows in pinyon-juniper and desert shrub communities.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2011; S1/N1.
- Restricted to Grand and San Juan Counties. Primarily found on the western foothills of the La Sal Mountains.

Jones Cycladenia (*Cycladenia humilis* var. *jonesii*)

Description

- Perennial forb with opposite leaves and showy purple-pink flowers. Grows in gypsiferous soils with sparse vegetation, usually occurring on steeper slopes. Its taxonomy is uncertain; Utah populations are probably genetically distinguishable from the California and Arizona populations.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 1995; S2/N3N4.
- Found in Arizona, California and Utah. Populations are extremely disjunct, more common in California. In Utah, populations are restricted to Emery, Garfield, Grand and Kane Counties.

Kodachrome Bladderpod (*Physaria tumulosa*)

Description

- A dense, mat forming plant in the Mustard family. Flowers are yellow. Grows on bare shale knolls and slopes in scattered pinyon-juniper woodlands.
- Federally listed as endangered in 1993.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2020; S3/N3.
- Restricted to Kane County, primarily within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Newly discovered populations may expand current distribution, but genetic research is needed to confirm their identity.

Last Chance Townsendia (*Townsendia aprica*)

Description

- A perennial, stemless daisy with yellow flower heads. Grows in soils from the Mancos Formation, soils often covered in biological soil crust. Associated with pinyon-juniper and salt desert shrub communities.
- Federally listed as threatened in 1985.

Abundance and Distribution

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- NatureServe 2016; S2/N2.
- Restricted to south-central Utah, known from Emery, Sevier and Wayne Counties.

Long-eared Myotis (*Myotis evotis*)

Description

- A small, insectivorous bat with a wide variety of habitat types in Utah, from lowland riparian and sagebrush to montane forests (Oliver 2000, UDWR data). For roosting, it uses a diversity of sites including live and dead trees, rock crevices, mines, caves, and buildings (NatureServe 2018). For wintering, its Utah habits are unknown, although presumably it hibernates.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2016; S3S4/N4N5.
- Widely distributed in western North America from British Columbia through Baja California and east to the Dakotas and Colorado (NatureServe 2018). This bat is found throughout Utah (Oliver 2000, UDWR data).
- As mortality has recently been documented in this species, white-nose syndrome (WNS) disease is now identified as a grave threat. While it remains unknown how populations will be affected by WNS, given the large and rapid declines in other small-bodied bat species, increased conservation attention is warranted for long-eared myotis.

Long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*)

Description

- A small, insectivorous bat commonly associated with forested habitats, though it has also been found in a variety of open habitats (Oliver 2000, UDWR data). Natural roost and maternity sites include crevices and hollows in live and dead trees, caves, rock outcrops, stream banks, and the ground. The species will also use some man-made crevices and hollows in buildings, bridges, and mines (Hayes and Wiles 2013). For wintering, its Utah habits are unknown, although presumably it hibernates.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2016; S3S4/N5.
- Widely distributed in western North America, from Alaska to central Mexico. This bat is found throughout Utah (Oliver 2000, UDWR data).
- As mortality has recently been documented in this species, white-nose syndrome (WNS) disease is now identified as a grave threat. While it remains unknown how populations will be affected by WNS, given the large and rapid declines in other small-bodied bat species, increased conservation attention is warranted for long-legged myotis.

Maguire Primrose (*Primula maguirei*)

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Description

- Perennial plant with large showy rose to lavender flowers. Grows on moist, north facing cliff walls.
- Federally listed as threatened in 1985.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2011; S1/N1.
- Restricted to Logan Canyon in Cache County.

Mojave Poppy Bee (*Perdita meconis*)

Description

- Very small (0.5 cm) yellow-and-black fairy bee; males have yellow face. Solitary ground nester that reproduces sexually with a single spring generation; active from April to early June. Specialist pollinator for bear poppies (*Arctomecon* spp) and prickly poppies (*Argemone* spp) which have a patchy distribution.
- Petitioned for federal listing in 2018; listing determination pending in FY2024.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2005; SX/N2 – potentially extirpated from Utah.
- Range extends through southeastern California, southern Nevada, southwestern Utah, and northwestern Arizona; found in creosote and mixed desert shrubs with gypsum soils.
- Distribution data is considered incomplete, and rank is tentative.

Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*)

Description

- Relatively large, orange-and-black patterned butterfly with white spots, with a distinct slow and sailing flight behavior.
- Reproduces sexually; within one year 3-4 generations occur across range during periods of breeding and migration, with one long-lived generation spending winter months in roosting habitat.
- Requires milkweed (*Asclepias* spp) as larval host plant, available nectar resources throughout breeding and migratory range.
- Federally designated as Candidate in 2020.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2015; SNR/NNR/G4. The large, sharp decline of North American migratory populations probably justify a national ranking of N3 or lower.
- Annual migrations occur, between breeding habitat and overwintering grounds. Range of western and eastern populations expands and contracts depending on the season. Breeding areas, migration routes, and winter roosts occur in different regions across North America.

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- In Utah, meadow and riparian habitats support spring/summer breeding and late-season migratory behavior; western population coastal overwintering counts suggest fewer than 2000 individuals in fall 2020.

Navajo Sedge (*Carex specuicola*)

Description

- A grass-like species found in seeps, springs and hanging gardens.
- Federally listed as threatened in 1985.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 1999; S1/N2.
- Found in Arizona and Utah. In Utah, it is known only from San Juan County.

Paradox Milkvetch (*Astragalus holmgreniorum*)

Description

- Perennial legume with purple-pink flowers.
- Federally listed as endangered in 2001.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2019; S1/N1.
- Restricted to a narrow corridor in northwestern Arizona and southwestern Utah (only in Washington County).

Pariette Cactus (*Sclerocactus brevispinus*)

Description

- Small, spherically-shaped cactus with small purple to pink flowers and short spines. Grows on exposed clay hills, saltbush or sagebrush flats.
- Federally listed as threatened in 2009.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2015; S1/N1.
- Endemic to Utah. Thought to be restricted to a few miles across the Pariette Draw region of the central Uinta Basin.

Shivwits Milkvetch (*Astragalus ampullarioides*)

Description

- Upright perennial legume with yellowish-cream flowers. Grows with warm desert shrubs, restricted to soils of the Chinle Formation.

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- Federally listed as endangered in 2001.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2015; S1/N1.
- Only found in Washington County, Utah.

Shrubby Reed-mustard (*Hesperidanthus suffretescens*)

Description

- Perennial, clump-forming, herbaceous member of the Mustard family with yellow flowers. Grows in semi-barren, white shale soils with mixed desert shrub and pinyon-juniper communities.
- Federally listed as endangered in 1987.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2009; S1/N1.
- Not found outside of the Uinta Basin of northeastern Utah.

Siler Pincushion Cactus (*Pediocactus sileri*)

Description

- Cactus with yellow flowers, commonly grows to 10 cm tall or more. Prefers soils high in gypsum
- Federally listed as threatened in 1993.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2013; S1/N2N3.
- Restricted to a narrow strip of western Arizona and Utah. In Utah, only found in Kane and Washington Counties.

Stage Station Milkvetch (*Astragalus sabulosus* var. *vehiculus*)

Description

- Small, perennial legume with pinkish white flowers. Grows on the Morrison Formation with shadscale, woody-aster and galleta-grass communities.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2019; S1/N1.
- Restricted to a single occurrence in the Courthouse Wash area of southwestern Grand County, Utah.

Uinta Basin Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus wetlandicus*)

Description

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- Egg-shaped cactus with pink flowers. Grows in fine textured soils topped with cobbles and pebbles. Associated with salt desert shrub and pinyon-juniper communities.
- Federally listed as threatened in 2009.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2009; S3/N3.
- Not found outside of the Uinta Basin of northeastern Utah. Known from Duchesne and Uintah Counties.

Ute Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*)

Description

- Small perennial orchid with white flowers. Grows in riparian communities with periodic disturbance events that help reduce competition.
- Federally listed as endangered in 1992.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2020; S1/N2N3.
- Restricted to the Rocky Mountains, distribution extends from Utah to British Columbia. Most occurrences are in Utah and Colorado.
- Population trends are difficult to determine due to episodic hibernation of individuals.

Welsh's Milkweed (*Asclepias welshii*)

Description

- Large perennial plant with milky, white sap and large clusters of cream to pink colored flowers. Grows on unstable, shifting sand dunes with sparse vegetation. Quickly outcompeted if dune becomes stabilized by vegetation. An important host plant for pollinating insects.
- Federally listed as threatened in 1987.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2013; S1/N1.
- Restricted to a narrow corridor in northern Arizona and southern Utah. In Utah, the species is known only to occur in Kane County.

Western Bumble Bee (*Bombus occidentalis occidentalis*)

Description

- Large, furry-bodied bee with low buzzing sound when flying; segment pattern is mostly black and yellow with distinguishing white/buff segments on rear of abdomen. Reproduces sexually with annual eusocial colonies; mated queens leave the colony and hibernate during winter

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months, and emerge in early spring to establish new colonies . Requires suitable nesting habitat, diverse pollen and nectar forage available April-October.

- Petitioned for federal listing in 2015; listing determination pending in FY2023.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2018; SNR/NNR/ G4. The large, sharp decline of populations probably justifies a national ranking of N3 or lower.
- Range extends through western United States and southern British Columbia; found in plains and prairies in the northern range, but restricted to higher altitudes (>7000 ft) in the southern portion of its range (including Utah). Infrequently detected in Utah, all records since 2007 have been found in subalpine/alpine habitat in Utah's mountain ranges.

White River Beardtongue (*Penstemon albifluvis*)

Description

- Perennial plant with lavender to pale blue flowers. Grows on semi-barren, xeric soils usually mixed with fragmented shale. Recent research suggests recognition at species level (was formerly considered a variety of *Penstemon scariosus*).

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2008; S2/N1.
- Restricted to narrow range between eastern Utah and western Colorado. In Utah, known only from Uintah County.

Winkler's Pincushion Cactus (*Pediocactus winkleri*)

Description

- Small cactus with the crown of the stem at or very near ground level. Flowers are peach to pink in color. Grows in salt desert shrub communities, prefers southern exposed sites and desert pavement soils.
- Federally listed as threatened in 1998.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2013; S2/N2.
- Not found outside of south-central Utah. Known from Emery and Wayne Counties.

Wright Fishhook Cactus (*Sclerocactus wrightiae*)

Description

- A small, ribbed cactus with solitary stems and white to pink flowers. Grows in a variety of soils, usually in areas with well-developed biological soils crusts. Associated with salt desert shrub and pinyon-juniper communities.
- Federally listed as endangered in 1979.

2021 Addendum – Changes to Utah Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2013; S2/N2.
- Not found outside of east-central Utah, occurring near the Fremont River and San Rafael Swell area. Known from Emery, Garfield, Sevier and Wayne Counties.

Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*)

Description

- A small, insectivorous bat that is most common in lower elevations, in association with water (Oliver 2000, UDWR data). However, this bat has been found from a wide range of elevations and habitats. Day roosts, night roosts, and maternity colonies have been found in buildings, bridges, caves and mines. For wintering, its Utah habits are unknown, although presumably it hibernates.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2016; S3/N4N5.
- Distributed west of the Rocky Mountains from southern British Columbia to central Mexico. In Utah, this bat is found statewide but is most common in the southern portion of the state, and in desert regions (Oliver 2000, UDWR data).
- As mortality has recently been documented in this species, white-nose syndrome (WNS) disease is now identified as a grave threat. While it remains unknown how populations will be affected by WNS, given the large and rapid declines in other small-bodied bat species, increased conservation attention is warranted for Yuma myotis.