

Carson Valley Monkeyflower 2018 Status Report Fact Sheet

Carson Valley monkeyflower (*Erythranthe carsonensis*) is a small, yellow-flowered, annual herb that grows on sandy flats and gentle slopes in Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, and Washoe counties (Nevada), and a small portion of Alpine County (California). First collected in 1865, Carson Valley monkeyflower had been grouped with another species, *Mimulus montioides*, until being recognized as a distinct species, *Erythranthe carsonensis*, by Naomi Fraga in 2012.

Like many desert annual plants, this species spends much of its life as seeds in the soil, only emerging when weather conditions are favorable. Due to the ephemeral nature of the species and difficulty of surveying on private lands, some unsurveyed potential habitat still exists for this species within its known range. Prior to being recognized as a separate species in 2009, surveys had not been conducted to document populations, life history traits, habitats, and ecology. A solid understanding of habitat parameters is essential to identify suitable habitat and develop strategies for future recovery actions and management.

Carson Valley monkeyflower can be found on approximately 411 hectares (1,016 acres) of habitat (82% public land, 18% private land). The publicly-owned populations of Carson Valley monkeyflower are found on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, State of Nevada, Carson City, Douglas County, and the Indian Hills and Incline Village General Improvement Districts.

These populations face a multitude of threats, such as wildfire, inappropriate off-highway vehicle activity, weeds, illegal dumping, and development of roads, public facilities, homes, and other buildings. Due to the close proximity to neighborhoods, roads, and industrial developments, these threats are severe throughout most of the populations. An estimated 42% of historic Carson Valley monkeyflower habitat has been lost to residential and commercial development (34%) and agriculture (8%).

This report summarizes the best available scientific information to-date for Carson Valley monkeyflower, and provides conservation recommendations designed to minimize the risk of extinction and state or federal listing of the species.



Carson Valley monkeyflower in bloom. Photo: Janel Johnson

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