Added to Rare Plant Rank 1B.2 on November 29, 2010

Rare Plant Status Review: *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *ahartii*
Proposed New Add to CA List 1B.2

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October 20, 2010
Changes made to the original status review document appear in blue.

Eriogonum umbellatum var. *ahartii* is a perennial shrub in the Polygonaceae that is endemic to California and known from only two general areas in Butte and adjacent Yuba County. It was first described by James Reveal in 2004 (*Phytologia* 86(3):146-147), is included in *The Flora of North America* (Vol. 5), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual*, 2nd Edition (http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/tjm2/review/treatments/polygonaceae_all.html#79201) . *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *ahartii* was proposed as a new addition to the *Inventory* in July of 2007, but was postponed due to inconclusive consensus in regards to list placement and a potential lack of recent annotations. It is very similar to variety *polyanthum*, but is generally distinct based on various leaf and branch characteristics. *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *ahartii* blooms from June through September.

Eriogonum umbellatum var. *ahartii* is restricted to serpentine slopes in chaparral dominated openings of oak and pine woodland from approximately 400 to 2000 meters in elevation. It mostly occurs in the Paradise and Lumpkin Ridge areas of Butte County.

Eriogonum umbellatum var. *ahartii* is currently known from approximately 26 ~~33~~ occurrences in Butte and Yuba Counties. It was thought to ~~may also~~ occur in Plumas County; however, ~~it is still unknown as to whether~~ Plumas Co. occurrences are likely ~~actually *E. umbellatum* var. *ahartii*~~, *E. umbellatum* var. *polyanthum*, or an undescribed variety (L. Janeway pers. comm. 2010 ~~2009~~). Of the 26 ~~33~~ known occurrences, only 19 ~~23~~ have been documented in the last 20 years (occurrences that have not been “seen” in the past 20 years are considered historic by the CNDDB). In 2005, Reveal mentioned that though this variety is uncommon; if more surveys occurred it would probably be found with some frequency in its restricted range. Additionally, personal communications with Dean Taylor in 2007 revealed that there were potentially many additional collections of var. *ahartii* that were not yet annotated in the Consortium of California Herbaria. However, since the time of this write up, only 5 additional occurrences have been documented.

Eriogonum umbellatum var. *ahartii* is included on the USDA Forest Service, Region 5 Sensitive Plant List, and is threatened on public land by road construction and maintenance, OHV use, and fire exclusion. Although *E. umbellatum* var. *ahartii* occurs in open areas, timber harvest may be a potential threat due to easy placement of landings and similar associated timber harvest

activities occurring in adjacent forested areas (L. Hanson 2005, L. Janeway 2008).

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDB recommend that *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *ahartii* be added to List 1B.2.

Recommended Actions
CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B.2
CNDDB: Add to CNDDB as G5T2/S2

Please review the draft CNPS Inventory record below, respond Yes or No on the proposal to add this species to the Inventory and CNDDB, and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record
Eriogonum umbellatum Torr. var. *ahartii* Reveal
Ahart's buckwheat
Polygonaceae
List 1B.2
Butte, ~~Plumas?,~~ Yuba
~~American House (574A) 3912161, Caribou (606C) 4012112?,~~ Berry Creek (575B) 3912164, Cascade (574B) 3912162, Challenge (558B) 3912142, Cherokee (576A) 3912165, Clipper Mills (574C) 3912152, ~~Dogwood Peak (590D) 3912171?, Goodyears Bar (573C) 3912058?, Haskins Valley (590C) 3912172?,~~ Paradise East (592D) 3912175, Pulga (591C) 3912174, ~~Rackerby (559A) 3912143, Soapstone Hill (591D) 3912173?, Stirling City (592A) 3912185~~
Cismontane woodland / serpentinite, slopes, openings; 400-2000 meters
Perennial shrub. Blooms June-September.
Threatened by road construction and maintenance, vehicles, and fire suppression. Potentially threatened by logging. See *Phytologia* 86(3):147 (2004) for original description.