



Goodding's Onion

(Allium gooddingii)

Conservation Agreement



USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region
1997

GOODDING'S ONION CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
SOUTHWEST REGION
500 GOLD AVENUE, SW
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102

AND

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHWESTERN REGION
517 GOLD AVENUE, SW
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102

I. INTRODUCTION

Goodding's onion (*Allium gooddingii*) is a Forest Service sensitive species and a candidate (61 FR 7596; February 28, 1996) for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. This conservation agreement addresses Goodding's onion management on National Forest System lands. Final approval of the Goodding's Onion Conservation Agreement represents a commitment by the Forest Service (Apache/Sitgreaves, Coronado, Gila, and Lincoln National Forests), and the Fish and Wildlife Service to manage this plant in a manner consistent with this agreement and with each agencies' policies in order to alleviate threats and ensure that the species does not require listing under the Endangered Species Act. This agreement incorporates the management direction and commitments contained in the Goodding's Onion (*Allium gooddingii*) Conservation Assessment and Strategy (U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1997).

Goodding's onion is a herbaceous perennial plant in the lily family (Liliaceae). It occurs most frequently in drainage bottoms and on moist north-facing slopes of mature mixed-conifer and spruce-fir forests at 7,500-11,250 feet elevation. Goodding's onion sites are currently known from the White Mountains of Arizona, the Mogollon Mountains of New Mexico, and from three isolated locations: the Santa Catalina Mountains of southern Arizona, near Sierra Blanca Peak in southern New Mexico, and the Chuska Mountains that straddle the Arizona/New Mexico border.

Several types of impacts, both in the past and potentially in the future, have altered Goodding's onion habitat in ways that are detrimental to its survival. These impacts include, but are not limited to, livestock grazing, timber harvest, ski resort operation, and wildfire.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to provide for the long-term conservation of Goodding's onion through proactive management of the species and its habitat. This will require the implementation of multiple use management strategies that maintain the integrity of the entire ecosystem upon which Goodding's onion depends. Such strategies will benefit other threatened, endangered, and sensitive species that share this ecosystem.

Conservation Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives define each Forest's management direction as established through the Goodding's Onion Conservation Assessment and Strategy document. This management direction should be sufficient to ensure the conservation of the ecosystem and the long-term survival of Goodding's onion throughout its natural range.

Goals:

- A. Pursue opportunities to conserve and restore the entire ecosystem where Goodding's onion occurs.
- B. Protect and maintain existing Goodding's onion sites to ensure their long-term conservation and viability on the Forests.
- C. Develop opportunities to increase the number and size of Goodding's onion sites where habitat potential will allow and where the increase will lower the likelihood of local or regional extirpations.

Objectives:

- 1. Implement Forest Plan and Forest Service Manual direction for Goodding's onion as a sensitive plant species by developing management strategies and guidelines sufficient to provide for the continued viability of Goodding's onion.
- 2. Prevent and alleviate impacts from management activities that degrade Goodding's onion habitat and cause declines at occupied sites.
- 3. Monitor Goodding's onion sites and if significant declines are detected assess the causes and initiate corrective actions.

4. Initiate research opportunities within the Forest Service and with other agencies or private groups.

III. AUTHORITY

A. Involved Parties

1. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
2. U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service

B. Authorities

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended

National Forest Management Act (1976)

U.S. Forest Service Manual (FSM 2670) on endangered, threatened, and sensitive species

National Memorandum of Understanding for the conservation of species tending toward Federal listing issued January 25, 1994 (94-SMU-058).

IV. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT

It is mutually beneficial for the parties involved to secure all Goodding's onion sites from habitat loss and degradation. Goodding's onion and other species will benefit from conservation actions that maintain and improve healthy ecosystems. The participating agencies will benefit from the flexibility of managing Goodding's onion without its listing under the Endangered Species Act.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Forest Service Shall:

1. Implement conservation actions and monitoring as specified in the Goodding's Onion Conservation Assessment and Strategy.
2. Retain Goodding's onion on the Regional Forester's sensitive species list to ensure that Biological Evaluations are conducted to determine effects of planned projects within existing Goodding's onion sites or suitable habitat.
3. Fully involve the Fish and Wildlife Service and interested State agencies during the National Environmental Policy Act process for all projects that may impact Goodding's onion or its habitat.

4. Conduct surveys for Goodding's onion in areas of potential habitat and provide data to the Fish and Wildlife Service and interested State agencies.
5. Support studies and other scientific research to better understand the biology and ecology of Goodding's onion.

B. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Shall:

1. Provide technical assistance in the implementation of Forest's conservation strategies.
2. Assess the listing of Goodding's onion under the Endangered Species Act if biological information indicates the species is likely to become in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range in the foreseeable future. Listing would follow the rulemaking process

C. Both Parties Shall:

1. Work together under the terms of this conservation agreement to manage, protect, and restore the ecosystems upon which Goodding's onion and other species depend.
2. Annually review implementation of the Forest's conservation strategies, share data and information, conduct field reviews as needed, and provide recommendations to the Regional Forester and Regional Director on any proposed changes to the strategies or amendments to this conservation agreement.
3. Meet together as soon as mutually deemed necessary, but at least before the sixth year of this agreement, to review the Forest's conservation strategies and recommend any changes in their content or implementation.
3. Fulfill their administrative responsibilities to oversee the implementation of the Goodding's Onion conservation strategies, which includes the allocation of staff time for technical supervision and project administration, and the programming of outyear budget needs and botanical skills.

VI. AGREEMENT TERM

This agreement shall remain in force for 10 years from the date of signature. The Goodding's Onion Conservation Agreement will be reviewed and amended as needed.

VII. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

- A. This agreement may be modified or amended as necessary upon review of the proposed amendments and written consent of all parties. This agreement may be terminated by either party with a 60 day written notice to all other parties.
- B. This agreement is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds among the parties of this agreement will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures.

GOODDING'S ONION CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

In Witness Whereof, the parties have caused this Goodding's Onion Conservation Agreement to be executed as of the date of signature below:

Approved:

Mr. John R. Kirkpatrick, Acting Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Date: _____

Ms. Nancy Kaufman, Regional Director
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Date: _____

Reviewed:

Mr. John C. Bedell, Forest Supervisor
Apache/Sitgreaves National Forests
Springerville, Arizona

Date: _____

Reviewed:

Mr. John McGee, Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
Tucson, Arizona

Date: _____

Reviewed:

Mr. Abel Camarena, Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest
Silver City, New Mexico

Date: _____

Reviewed:

Mr. Jose M. Martinez, Forest Supervisor
Lincoln National Forest
Alamogordo, New Mexico

Date: _____

Reviewed:

Mr. Sam F. Spiller, Field Supervisor
Arizona Ecological Services Field Office
Phoenix, Arizona

Date: _____

Reviewed:

Ms. Jennifer Fowler-Propst, Field Supervisor
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Date: _____