



Native Plant Society of New Mexico
PO Box 35388
Albuquerque, NM 87176-5388

March 11, 2020

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Forestry Division
State of New Mexico
1220 South Saint Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

This letter is in response to your request for public comment on EMNRD's proposed rulemaking concerning the amendment of 19.21.2 NMAC, Endangered Plant Species List and Collection Permits. This comment is submitted on behalf of the Native Plant Society of NM (NPSNM), a non-profit organization with approximately 900 members in seven chapters located around the state and in El Paso, Texas. Our mission is to educate the public about native plants by promoting knowledge of plant identification, ecology, and uses; foster plant conservation and the preservation of natural habitats; support botanical research; and encourage the appropriate use of native plants to conserve water, land, and wildlife.

EMNRD is to be commended for this effort to remove an unnecessary listing of one plant and add seven other plants to New Mexico's listing of endangered plants, as well as to clarify definitions in its regulations. Daniela Roth, the ENMRD Botany Program Coordinator, is the only botanist in New Mexico, state or federal, focused entirely on rare and endangered plants. As climate change increasingly threatens the very existence of such plants it is vitally important that up-to-date botanical knowledge be used to protect them for the benefit of future generations. NPSNM applauds Ms. Roth and ENMRD in proposing the amendment of 19.21.2 NMAC and supports these rule changes.

Best regards,

Tom Stewart,
State Board President,
Native Plant Society of New Mexico