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Ten Rare Plants Added to State Endangered Plant Species List Listing prohibits collection for personal use or profit

SANTA FE, NM – A newly approved rule change will better protect an additional 10 plant species in danger of extinction in New Mexico. On July 9, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst approved an amendment to the New Mexico Endangered Plant Species List and Collection Permits rule (19.21.2 NMAC), which adds 10 plant species to the state endangered plant list. The rule prohibits protected endangered plant species from being collected, removed, transported, exported, processed for sale, or offered for sale unless issued a valid permit for specific scientific purposes by the state forester.

This effort follows years of research by the Forestry Division’s Endangered Plant Program and other rare plant scientists across the state. The additions took nearly two years to complete and involved public comment and input from numerous stakeholders.

“While climate change is the primary threat to extinction of our endangered plants, this law provides an additional level of protection by prohibiting collection of some of our rarest plants,” said Daniela Roth, Forestry Division Endangered Plant Program Manager. “Adding new plants to the state list should encourage land managers to provide better protection.”

The amendment also delists the more common and widespread [*Mammillaria wrightii* var. *wilcoxii*](#) cactus, resulting in a total of 45 species listed endangered in the state; changes the names of three other species already on the New Mexico State Endangered Plant List to reflect current classifications; and clarifies the overall text of the rule to better reflect the law’s intent.

The 10 species added to the state list of endangered plants due to their rarity and documented threats are *Townsendia gypsophila* (Gypsum Townsend’s aster); *Sclerocactus cloverae* (Clover’s cactus); *Scrophularia macrantha* (Mimbres figwort); *Castilleja tomentosa* (tomentose paintbrush); *Penstemon*

metcalfei (Metcalf's beardtongue); *Cymopterus spellenbergii* (Spellenberg's springparsley); and *Linum allredii* (Allred's flax); *Agalinis calycina* (Leoncita false-foxglove); *Hexalectris colemanii* (Coleman's coralroot); and *Castilleja ornata* (Swale paintbrush).

The complete rule amendments and Statement of Reasons can be found on the EMNRD Forestry Division website at <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/>. The rule amendments will go into effect upon publication in the New Mexico Register on July 28.



Sclerocactus cloverae (Clover's cactus) is found only in a small area of the Four Corners region of New Mexico.
Photo courtesy: Robert Sivinski

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