Endangered Species Act
40th Anniversary Success Stories
Christ's Paintbrush

Christ's Paintbrush is an endemic species that occurs as a single population within an approximately 85-ha (220-ac) area of subalpine meadow and sagebrush habitats near the summit of Mount Harrison, Cassia County, Idaho, between 2,621 and 2,804 meters (8,600 to 9,200 ft.).

It was previously threatened by destruction, modification, and curtailment of its habitat by the effects from the nonnative smooth brome, livestock grazing, and recreation based impacts,

The Sawtooth National Forest (SNF) worked closely with Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, USFWS and successfully implemented numerous conservation actions that have ameliorated most of the previously known threats. Actions include an intensive chemical and mechanical treatment of the smooth brome, development of interpretive and education signs, placement and maintenance of rock barriers and gates to manage recreation, effective livestock exclosures and permittee communications, and an interagency road maintenance program.

PLANTING IN CHRIST'S PAINTBRUSH HABITAT

Seed collected from Christ's Paintbrush is in an ex situ seed storage facility. Habitat restoration efforts have included installation of native plant materials and seeding of native plants.

A long-term monitoring program has been implemented to document the effectiveness of the conservation actions and track the viability of the Christ's Paintbrush.

Research by Boise State University has demonstrated that hybridization is not a factor affecting the integrity of Christ's Paintbrush.

In 2012 the SNF entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the USFWS to continue implementation of conservation actions and long-term monitoring. As a result, in November 2012 the USFWS determined that Christ's Paintbrush no longer warranted listing under the ESA and removed it from its candidate species list.

CHRIST'S INDIAN PAINTBRUSH LONG TERM MONITORING

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