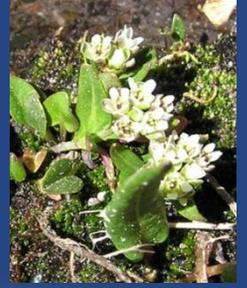


Endangered Species Act 40th Anniversary Success Stories Penland Mosquito Range Mustard



Penland Mosquito Range Mustard (*Eutrema penlandii*) is a small, herbaceous perennial typically found below corniced snow banks on south and east facing shallow slopes and benches. The plants grow among mosses saturated by the melting snow. It is an Ice Age relic found only in the Mosquito Range of central Colorado.

The Mosquito Range has several unique plants and rare plant communities. These alpine areas are becoming more popular with recreationists on foot and in vehicles. Roads and trails have threatened Penland Mosquito Range Mustard. The Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI), through a Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committee grant, has partnered with the South Park Ranger District of the Pike National Forest, to identify rare plant populations in relation to roads and trails, especially Penland Mosquito Range Mustard. Another objective is to do trail work protecting rare plant populations. This two-year study has been extended into its third year.



Figure 2. Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative establishing Penland Mosquito Range Mustard monitoring plot. (Photo courtesy US Fish and Wildlife Service)



Figure 1. Penland Mosquito Range Mustard. (Photo by Steve Olson, PSICC)

In the first two years of the work MRHI has done on Penland Mosquito Range Mustard, over 60 known and potential locations were surveyed, hiking over 250 miles. Twenty-two new instances of the mustard were found (along with over 300 occurrences of other rare plants). Three cases where damage was occurring to populations have been mitigated. In 2012, MRHI worked with the South Park Ranger District, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management to set up five permanent population monitoring sites across the range of Penland Mosquito Range Mustard. In the autumn, MRHI also assisted Denver Botanic Gardens in collecting seeds from the plants.



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