

Endangered Species Act 40th Anniversary Success Stories San Francisco Peaks Ragwort



San Francisco Peaks ragwort (*Packera franciscana*) is a rare endemic, found only at or above timberline on the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff, Arizona. San Francisco Peaks ragwort was declared threatened with critical habitat in 1983. The Coconino National Forest prepared the Alpine Tundra Plan in 1984. Most of the actions in that plan have been implemented. The Recovery Plan for San Francisco Peaks ragwort was prepared in 1987. At the time of listing, one of the threats to the species was unregulated hiking in its habitat. One of the actions of the 1984 Tundra plan was to close the area to off-trail hiking and to restrict hiking to designated trails. Conflicts between recreation use and the plan still exist. Climate change has been identified as a recent threat. There is no replacement habitat available for this species if the habitat becomes unsuitable.



Figure 2. Surveyors on transect line in 2012



Figure 1. San Francisco Peaks ragwort. In its talus habitat.

Dr. James Fowler from Rocky Mountain Research Station, Flagstaff, Arizona is conducting monitoring on the San Francisco Peaks ragwort, using linear transects. Based on Dr. Fowler's work, the total population of San Francisco Peaks ragwort is about 180,000 stems. Dr. Fowler conducted annual surveys from 2008 to 2012. Dr. Fowler and his associates used a series of 1 meter square frames along transect lines following existing trails. They chose to stay on existing trails to avoid impacts to the fragile habitat from their monitoring efforts. Through his efforts in 2008-2009, Dr. Fowler concluded that the San Francisco Peaks ragwort is locally abundant and reproducing in its habitat. Monitoring will occur again in 2013.

Reference : Fowler, James F. and Carolyn Hull Sieg. 2010. Density and Elevational Distribution of The San Francisco Peaks Ragwort, *Packera Franciscana* (Asteraceae), A threatened Single-Mountain Endemic. *Madrono* Vol. 57. No. 4. pages.213–219.



Coconino National Forest
1824 S. Thompson ST.
Flagstaff, AZ