

Endangered Species Act 40th Anniversary Success Stories Spalding's Catchfly



Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) is endemic to limited grassland communities of the inland northwest. First collected by Henry Spalding near the Clearwater River of Idaho in 1846, the species was not described until 1875. Due to few, small occurrences; extensive habitat loss and severe threats in a limited range, the plant was proposed for federal listing in 1999. Listing as threatened under the ESA came in 2001.

Modeling efforts associated with the Island EAWS identified potential habitat on the Nez Perce National Forest. During verification of this modeling, field surveys located occurrences on the forest in 2005 and 2006. Another third occurrences was located in 2009.

In 2007 the species recovery plan was developed by the FWS with input from the Spalding's catchfly technical team, which is made up by several botanists and ecologists representing local agencies that manage public lands across the species' range. Also a multiagency training session was conducted in July of 2007 on the Nez Perce NF.

The recovery plan identifies Key Conservation Areas, where large populations will be maintained and monitored as part of the eventual delisting program. At least one, and possibly two of the occurrences on the Nez Perce National Forest will serve as KCAs. Additional field surveys are ongoing.



Spalding's Catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*).
Photo by Ryan Woolverton.



Interagency Spalding's catchfly training. Jennie Fisher photo.



Healthy Idaho Fescue/Junegrass habitat is a rare grassland community that supports Spalding's catchfly. Mike Hays Photo.



**Nez Perce - Clearwater
National Forests**