

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
August Newsletter, 1978
Missy Deardorff, Editor Phyllis Hughes, Membership
988-1520 P.O. Box 340
 Santa Fe, N.M. 87501

NEWS & NOTES

Santa Fe Chapter:

August 20 - RARE II Workshop

St. John's College, room 116 of the
Laboratory Building, 7:30 pm. Come and learn
how you can help to save wilderness areas by
writing effective letters. Call Melissa
Savage for details (983-1113).

August 26 - Field Trip - Santa Fe Ski Basin

We will see Scarlet Gilia, Monkshood,
White Checkermallow, Pink Bergamot, and other
wildflowers in bloom at stops along the way.
Meet at Furr's parking lot, 9:15 am Saturday.
We can pool vehicles at the parking lot.
Bring a lunch and water.

Ipomopsis aggregata
Scarlet gilia
Phlox family (Polemoniaceae)
Flowers scarlet



New Mexico Wilderness Needs You

RARE II ... This strange sounding acronym represents a process that will decide the fate of the remaining roadless and undeveloped areas in our National Forests. It is at once a threat to our remaining National Forest wild lands and an unparalleled opportunity for their preservation. The process is the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II, and whether it becomes a threat or a vehicle for the preservation of some of the 1,800,000 acres of undeveloped National Forest Lands in New Mexico largely depends on your involvement.

The Forest Service originated the program as a way of speeding up the release of areas which all parties agree have little wilderness potential. This is an admirable goal. But several forces conspire against RARE II as an orderly, unbiased process and may sabotage efforts to obtain consensus.

Institutional obstacles to the goal of obtaining consensus exist within the Forest Service itself. The first is the Forest Service's national timber sale pricing policy which often provides a subsidy to contractors to cut areas that otherwise would not be economically feasible to harvest (i.e. those areas most suited for Wilderness designation). (more on RARE II →)



Sidalcea candida
White Checkermallow
Mallow family (Malvaceae)
Flowers white

There is an anti-wilderness bias by some Forest Service personnel, who view Wilderness designation as an infringement upon their particular form of management. The Forest Service bureaucracy seems to feel that Northern New Mexico has plenty of Wilderness areas with Pecos, Bandelier, San Pedro Parks, Chama and Wheeler Peak.

There is a serious anti-wilderness slant in the "range" of alternatives offered for public review by the Forest Service. As a result, RARE II emerges as less a wilderness program than a non-wilderness program. Opponents of wilderness see this latest Forest Service effort as a chance to throw off the restraint of wilderness consideration once and for all. They are mounting an unprecedented campaign aimed at inflaming anti-wilderness sentiment. The timber, grazing, mining, and off-road vehicle lobbyists think they can turn out a

tide of anti-wilderness petitions, cards, and letters that will overwhelm wilderness support by October 1st.

The impact of these decisions will be enormous. Millions of acres of roadless "de facto" wilderness will be cleared for development - lands which generations have taken for granted and used as wilderness, though never formally designated.

The urgency and priority YOU must give RARE II during this comment period cannot be overstated. This is the make-or-break time for the future of every National Forest "de facto" wilderness. Action cannot wait until the end of summer; it is vital to begin a sustained and accelerating local campaign immediately.

Decades worth of decisions - to which you and many others would have devoted thousands of hours of effort - will be made in just the few short months left in 1978. The hundreds of letters you would have written supporting individual proposals must be written now.

Those who wish to see areas preserved have no choice but to deliver an unmistakable message to the Forest Service and the Carter administration. Copies of the RARE II environmental statement and maps of New Mexico roadless areas are available at local Forest Service offices. Written comment is being accepted now. Letters must express clear support for wilderness protection, for individual areas and give reasons why. The letters don't have to be lengthy or technical, just your opinions about a particular area. If you have been to the area, say so. Remember to use the RARE II name and number for the area to avoid confusion (check the Forest Service maps for the number).

The volume of mail received will be a major factor in determining whether a roadless area is preserved or opened for development. For help with your letter, come to the RARE II workshop on August 20th (see News & Notes, this issue).

Monarda fistulosa
Pink Bergamot
Mint family (Lamiaceae)
Flowers pink-lilac
Foliage strongly aromatic



Crag Lily Has Curious Distribution

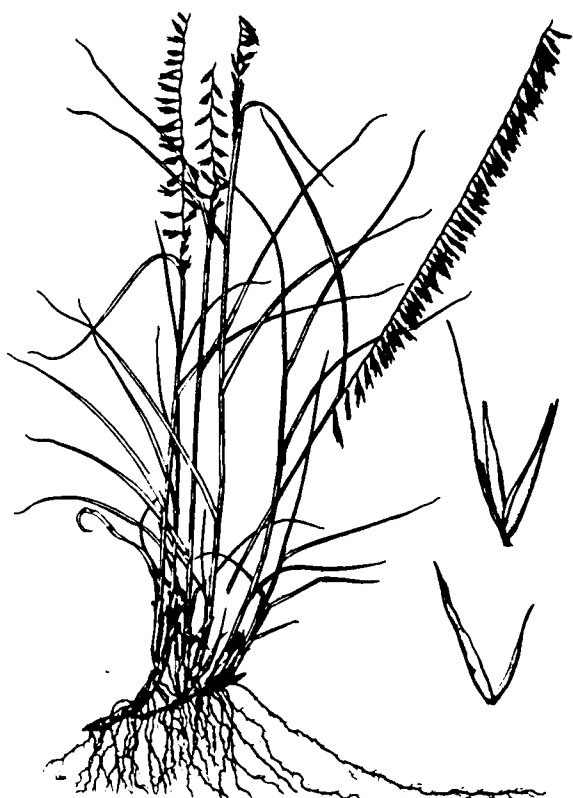
The Crag Lily, Anthericum torreyi Baker, is an attractive, yet poorly known wildflower in New Mexico. Apparently widespread in Apache, Navajo, Yavapai and Coconino counties in Arizona and from Trans Pecos Texas south into Mexico, this species has a peculiar distribution in New Mexico. It was originally collected at the "copper mines" of New Mexico (presumably at Santa Rita) and seems to occur frequently in southwest New Mexico. However, it also occurs eastward in the Sacramento Mountains and in the Magdalena (Hop Canyon) Mountains as well. Curiously, this species appears not to have been collected in either the well studied Manzano or Sandia Mountains, nor does it appear in the Jemez Mountains in the west. Its reappearance in the southeastern portion of the Sangre de Cristo ("Las Vegas Mountains") range is most puzzling.

Anthericum is a genus in the Lily family (Liliaceae). The flowers of this species are yellowish beige with six undifferentiated perianth parts. The plant is up to 35 inches tall and has 4 to 6 narrow, grasslike (or onion-like) leaves. The fruiting capsule is 3-parted. Crag Lily flowers from June to August (and into November in Texas). Unlike a number of liliaceous plants, this one has fleshy roots, like Trillium.

This species is an excellent potential ornamental for the native plant garden. It requires a sandy loam, partial shade, and probably will not do well on straight caliche. It is likely that seed collected in the northern part of the range of Crag Lily will produce more hardy plants than seed from the Grant county area.

Wildflower enthusiasts should keep an eye out for the Crag Lily and gather seed. I would be most interested in reports of this species, especially from northern New Mexico.

- Bill F. Isaacs
phone 827-5531.



Bouteloua curtipendula
Sideoats Grama
Grass family (Poaceae)
Flowers pendulous, anthers scarlet

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To join the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, send your annual dues to Phyllis Hughes, P.O. Box 340, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

Send \$6.00 for individual, \$8.00 for a family membership. You will receive the monthly newsletter and notification of special events.

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plants of the southwest

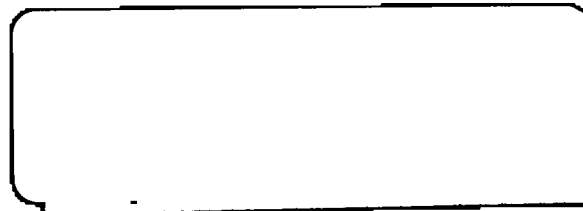
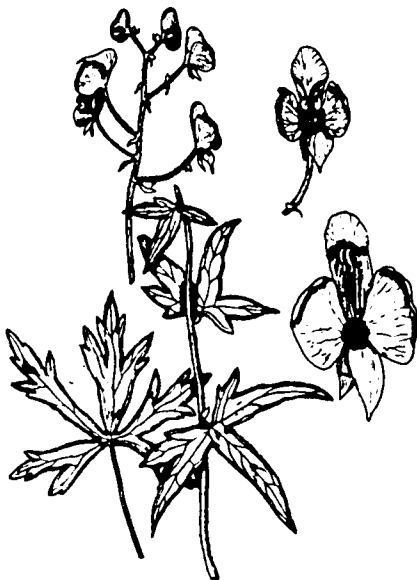
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Chamisa, Gambel Oak,
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stemon species now
available.

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Native Plant Society of New Mexico
542 Camino del Monte Sol
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Aconitum columbianum
Monkshood
Buttercup family (Ranunculaceae)
Flowers blue-purple