

1.2 Nuttall's Acmispon (*Acmispon prostratus*) – Category SO

Management Units with Known Occurrences

Nuttall's acmispon is an annual herb found along the coast San Diego County and in northern Baja California, Mexico (CNPS 2017). There are 21 known occurrences on Conserved Lands in MUs 1 and 7, from the San Luis River mouth south to Border Fields State Park (see Table of Occurrences and online map: <http://arcg.is/2hIPSy7>). It is associated with coastal dune and open coastal sage scrub habitat (CNPS 2017).

Management Categorization Rationale

Nuttall's acmispon should be managed as a Species Management Focus Category SL Species due to a high risk of loss from Conserved Lands in the MSPA and because managing the general vegetation community alone will not ensure persistence of the species (see Vol. 1, Table 2-4). It is at a high risk of loss as there are only 21 occurrences on Conserved Lands in a restricted distribution with limited suitable habitat and isolated occurrences vulnerable to loss of genetic diversity and extirpation as a result of environmental and demographic stochasticity or catastrophic disturbance. Threats to Nuttall's acmispon include human use, invasive nonnative plants, climate change/sea level rise, altered hydrology, and urban development (CNPS 2017).

Management and Monitoring Approach

The overarching goal for Nuttall's acmispon is to maintain or enhance existing occurrences to ensure multiple conserved occurrences with self-sustaining populations to increase resilience to environmental and demographic stochasticity, maintain genetic diversity, and ensure persistence over the long term (>100 years) in coastal bluff and coastal dune habitats.

For the 2017–2021 planning cycle, the management and monitoring approach for Nuttall's acmispon is to:

- (1) Inspect conserved occurrences every year to document abundance, record threats, and identify needed management actions. Implement routine management as determined during monitoring.

- (2) Use occurrence status and threat data to develop a section for Nuttall's acmispon in the MSP Rare Plant Management Plan that prioritizes management actions. Implement the highest priority management actions.
- (3) Initiate preparation of a section for Nuttall's acmispon in the MSP Seed Collection, Banking, and Bulking Plan that directs seed collection in the MSPA to ensure representation of different occurrences in the seed bank, provide propagules to preserve genetic diversity, support habitat restoration, and rescue occurrences in case of catastrophic disturbance. Initiate the seed collection and banking plan.
- (4) Enhance and expand the 4 Nuttall's acmispon occurrences at Mariner's Point, South Shores, South Carlsbad State Beach, and Cardiff State Beaches and establish a new occurrence at Stony Point in Mission Bay.

For details and the most up-to-date goals, objectives, and actions, go to the MSP Portal Nuttall's Acmispon summary page: https://portal.sdmmp.com/view_species.php?taxaid=820047.

Nuttall's Acmispon References

CNPS (California Native Plant Society) 2017. Rare Plant Program. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (online edition, v8-02). California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA. Website <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org> [accessed 17 January 2017].