

1.29 Gander's Ragwort (*Packera ganderi*) – Category SO

Management Units with Known Occurrences

Gander's ragwort is endemic to San Diego and Riverside Counties (Reiser 1994). It is a rare perennial herb that inhabits the understory of chamise chaparral, often in gabbroic soils. Gander's ragwort occurs at 8 locations on Conserved Lands within the MSPA (see Occurrence Table or online map: <http://arcg.is/2kJFPsL>). The species is mainly found in MUs 3 and 4, though occurrences have been found in MUS 10 and 11 in Cleveland National Forest, unconserved lands, and private land (CDFW 2013; SDNHM 2017). The occurrences in Barber Mountain and Iron Mountain are small, with populations of <500 individuals. The McGinty Mountain occurrence consists of plants at 5 locations in fairly close proximity on 2 preserves and is considered a CNDDDB occurrence (CDFW 2013). The current status of an occurrence recorded in the 1990s on Conserved Lands at O'Neal Canyon is unknown (County San Diego 2007). There are 2 old records (mid-1990s) in MU8 on private lands that are not conserved.

Management Categorization Rationale

Gander's ragwort should be managed as a Species Management Focus Category SO Species due to a moderate risk of loss from Conserved Lands in the MSPA and because managing chaparral habitats alone will not ensure its persistence (see Vol. 1, Table 2-4). Gander's ragwort is at moderate risk of loss from the MSPA as it is a perennial herb with mostly small occurrences and few moderate occurrences on Conserved Lands that are isolated and vulnerable to demographic stochasticity and loss of genetic diversity. There is an indication that 1 of the occurrences is much smaller now than in the late 1980s.

Management and Monitoring Approach

The overarching goal for Gander's ragwort is to maintain or enhance 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 chaparral vegetation communities.

For the 2017–2021 planning cycle, the management and monitoring approach for Gander's ragwort is to inspect Gander's ragwort occurrences on Conserved Lands

(see Table of Occurrence) every 3 years using the regional rare plant IMG monitoring protocol to record abundance and collect habitat and threats covariate data to determine management needs and conduct routine management actions identified through the IMG monitoring in 2016 and implement management as needed using BMPs with precautions to do no harm.

For details and the most up-to-date goals, objectives, and actions, go to the MSP Portal Gander's Ragwort summary page: https://portal.sdmmp.com/view_species.php?taxaid=565357

Gander's Ragwort References

CDFW (California Department of Fish and Wildlife). 2013. California Natural Diversity Database. Species occurrences shapefile. Accessed 2013.

County of San Diego. 2007. *County of San Diego MSCP Monitoring Summary Report, January 1998–June 2007*. Prepared for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game.

SDNHM (San Diego Natural History Museum). 2017. *San Diego County Plant Atlas*. <http://www.sdnhm.org/science/botany/projects> Accessed 2017.

Reiser, C. H. 1994. *Rare Plants of San Diego County*. Imperial Beach, CA.