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NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Service Designates Endangered Status for the Vandenberg Monkeyflower

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has listed the Vandenberg monkeyflower, a unique plant species found only within sandy openings of Burton Mesa in Santa Barbara County, Calif., as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

”Following review and analysis of the best available scientific information regarding threats to the species, the Service has determined Vandenberg monkeyflower not only has a restricted range, but also faces ongoing and future threats that indicate the plant is in danger of extinction,” said Steve Henry, Field Supervisor for the Service’s Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office.

The Vandenberg monkeyflower, known for its unique petal formation and markings, grows amidst maritime chaparral and coastal scrub mixed with patches of native grasslands and oak woodlands, and is almost exclusively found on thin layers of wind-blown sand. The small annual herb grows up to 10 inches tall, and produces one to several yellow flowers on purple-tinted stems.

The Burton Mesa, a series of low, flat-topped hills, is located between the Purisima Hills to the north and the Santa Ynez River to the south. The primary threat to the Vandenberg monkeyflower and its habitat is the continued presence and expansion of veldt grass and other invasive plants.

Habitat destruction and fragmentation due to residential and commercial development and utility and pipeline maintenance activities have contributed to the species decline. Additional threats include recreational activities, modified fire frequencies and climate impacts.

The ESA focuses resources on recovery planning and projects, many in partnership with states, local governments, tribes and conservation groups. The Service's decision appears in the August 26, 2014, *Federal Register* and becomes effective September 24, 2014.

The public may view materials concerning this final rule at <http://www.regulations.gov>, using the docket numbers FWS-R8-ES-2013-0078.

A photo of the Vandenberg monkeyflower is available at the Service's Flickr site:
<https://flic.kr/p/oQ8ACw>

Established in 1987, the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office works to conserve and protect threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants across the central and southern California coast, collaborating with communities and conservation partners to build a future that supports both people and our unique and diverse natural resources. For more information, visit <http://ventura.fws.gov> or follow us on [Facebook](#).

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