

1.23 Heart-leaved Pitcher Sage (*Lepichinia cardiophylla*) – Category SL

Management Units with Known Occurrences

Heart-leaved pitcher sage is a shrub that occurs in chaparral and oak woodlands in southern California and Baja California, Mexico (Reiser 1994). In southern California, it is found mainly in the Santa Ana Mountains. Within the MSPA, two small conserved occurrences (<500 individuals) are in relative proximity in MU8 at Wilderness Gardens and Mount Olympus Preserves (see Table of Occurrences or online map: <http://arcg.is/2jZf7Yp>). Heart-leaved pitcher sage currently occurs on private lands near Iron Mountain and was reported from a couple of locations in that area in the late 1970s.

Management Categorization Rationale

Heart-leaved pitcher sage 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 chaparral and oak woodlands alone will not ensure its persistence (see Vol. 1, Table 2-4). It is at high risk of loss from the MSPA because there are only 2 small occurrences currently reported on Conserved Lands (see Vol. 3, Species Profiles). The 2 conserved occurrences of heart-leaved pitcher sage are vulnerable to loss of genetic diversity and extirpation due to environmental and demographic stochasticity and catastrophic disturbance.

Management and Monitoring Approach

The overarching goal for heart-leaved pitcher sage is to maintain or enhance existing occurrences and establish new occurrences, as needed, 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 and oak woodland vegetation communities.

For the 2017–2021 planning cycle, the management and monitoring approach for heart-leaved pitcher sage is to inspect any extant occurrences discovered on Conserved Lands and repeat monitoring every 2 years using the regional monitoring protocol to record population abundance and collect habitat and threats covariate data to determine management needs. Conduct routine management actions identified through the IMG monitoring if occurrences are

found on Conserved Lands where management should be conducted as needed depending on the threats while 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 Heart-leaved Pitcher Sage summary page:
https://portal.sdmmp.com/view_species.php?taxaid=32553

Heart-leaved Pitcher Sage References

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