Rare Plant Status Review: *Eremothera nevadensis*
Proposed Addition to California Rare Plant Rank ~~2B.2~~ 2B.1, G3 / S1

Ellen A. Dean (CNPS), Adam J. Searcy (CNPS), and Katie Ferguson (CNDDB)
1 June 2026
Revisions to the original review are in blue text

After internal CNDDB and CNPS discussion a threat code of 0.1 was deemed appropriate since the species is known from only one estimated occurrence in CA with no recent observations or threat information.

Background and Taxonomy
Eremothera nevadensis (Kellogg) W.L. Wagner & Hoch is a prostrate, annual herb in the Onagraceae previously thought to occur only in Nevada but now confirmed to be in Mono County, California (Howald and Tiehm 2018, Wagner 2025a, NRCS 2026). *Eremothera nevadensis* was first published as *Oenothera nevadensis* in 1863 with no specimens cited but likely collected in the Reno, Nevada area; the species was transferred to the genus *Eremothera* in 2007 after being placed in *Camissonia* for a number of decades (Kellogg 1863, Heller 1910, Raven 1969, Wagner et al. 2007). This species was not included (under any genus name) in *The Jepson Manual* (Wagner 1993). It is included in Revision 13 of the *Jepson eFlora* (Wagner 2025a) and in *Flora of North America* (Wagner 2022) (treated as endemic to NV in the latter reference). Note that some sources still place this species in the genus *Camissonia* (NRCS 2026). The epithet "nevadensis" refers to the state of Nevada.

Ecology
In California, *Eremothera nevadensis* is found in pinyon and juniper woodland and Great Basin scrub with *Pinus monophylla*, *Juniperus osteosperma*, and *Artemisia tridentata* (Howald and Tiehm 2018, CCH2 2026). The *Jepson eFlora* states that this species is local and colonial on clay, sandy, or gravelly soils, often in vernally wet sites (sometimes alkaline) (Wagner 2025a); this description is likely based on plants occurring in Nevada (Wagner 2022). The one specimen from California was collected at approximately 7,000 ft (2134 m) and the approximate elevation given in the *Jepson eFlora* is 2,100–2,150 m (Wagner 2025a, CCH2 2026). The one collection from California was collected in flower in June 1980, while the bloom time for Nevada plants is April through May (rarely to early June) (Wagner 2022, CCH2 2026). *Eremothera nevadensis* flowers are pollinated in the evening by small moths and the following morning by bees (Wagner et al. 2007).

Distribution and Abundance
In California, *Eremothera nevadensis* is known from only one historical occurrence in a remote area of the Bodie Hills of Mono County in the East of the Sierra Nevada (SNE) Jepson geographic subdivision (Hickman 1993, CCH2 2026). The occurrence is based on a specimen collected by Matt Lavin in 1980 NNE of Masonic Mountain; the estimated coordinates place it approximately 0.5 mile from the Nevada border (CCH2 2026). There may be more potential sites for this species in the northern Bodie Hills or along the east base of the Sweetwater Mountains just inside Mono County (Messick 2026 pers. comm.).

Outside of California, this species is known from western Nevada in Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Ormsby, Pershing, Storey, and Washoe counties (Wagner 2022). Two of those counties (Douglas and Lyon) border Mono County and there are observation records occurring within approximately 2.5 miles and specimen records within approximately 7 miles of the California border (iNaturalist 2026, SEINet 2026). In Nevada, it is known from approximately 60 herbarium collections and 41 iNaturalist observations (iNaturalist 2026, SEINet 2026). There are 24 estimated occurrences in Nevada (NatureServe 2026).

There are three specimen records in pink rows at the end of the location table (CCH2 2026). Two of the specimens were collected by J. G. Lemmon and have vague locations of "California" or "California, Sierra Nevada Mts." While the identifications are correct (both specimens were annotated by Peter Raven and Peter Warner), the locations are too vague to georeference and may be erroneous; Raven's annotation labels each bear the note "doubtless from Nevada". The third specimen record (*Parish 779* GH), collected in Mesquite, Imperial Co., California, is erroneously entered under the name *Camissonia nevadensis* in the CCH2 (2026). The specimen is on a mixed sheet with three other specimens from other collectors, two of which are collections of *Eremothera nevadensis* from Nevada. *Parish 779* was originally labelled *Oenothera gauriflora* and annotated as *Camissonia boothii* subsp. *condensata*, both of which are synonyms of *Eremothera boothii* subsp. *condensata*, a common taxon in Imperial County (Wagner 2025a, CCH2 2026, POWO 2026).

Status and Threats
This species has no conservation status in California. NatureServe (2026) ranks *Eremothera nevadensis* as G3 (vulnerable), and it is ranked S3 (vulnerable) in Nevada. In California, this species is located on lands managed by the US National Forest Service (Humboldt-Toiyabe NF). Current threats at this location are not yet documented. James Andre has observed fuels reduction activities and grazing in the area where *E. nevadensis* was found (J. Andre, Status Review Forum comment).

Summary
Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDB propose adding *Eremothera nevadensis* to California Rare Plant Rank ~~2B.2~~ 2B.1 of the CNPS Inventory. If knowledge of the distribution, threats, or rarity status of *Eremothera nevadensis* changes in the future, it may be re-evaluated at that time.

Recommended Actions
CNPS: Add *Eremothera nevadensis* to CRPR ~~2B.2~~ 2B.1
CNDDB: Add *Eremothera nevadensis* to G3 / S1

Draft CNPS Inventory Record
Eremothera nevadensis (Kellogg) W.L. Wagner & Hoch
Nevada evening-primrose
Onagraceae
USDA Plants Symbol: CANE11 (under *Camissonia nevadensis*)
Synonym(s)/Other Name(s): None
CRPR ~~2B.2~~ 2B.1

Counties: Mono
States: CA, NV
Quad name (code): The Elbow (3811941)
General Habitat: Pinyon and juniper woodland, Great Basin scrub
Microhabitat Details: local and colonial
Microhabitat: clay (often), vernally mesic (often), gravelly (sometimes), sandy (sometimes), alkaline (sometimes)
Elevation: 2100–2150 m (6900 to 7050 ft)
Life form: Annual herb
Blooms: June
Notes: Although collected in the Bodie Hills of MNO Co. in 1980, the significance of the collection being the first California record was not realized until 2018.
Taxonomy: Some sources still place this species in the genus *Camissonia*. Transferred from *Camissonia* to *Eremothera* in 2007.
Selected References:
- CNPS Status Review: Proposed addition to CRPR ~~2B.2~~ 2B.1, G3 / S1 (2026)
- Original Description: *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences* 2: 224, 227 (1863)
- Taxonomic Monograph: *Contributions from the United States National Herbarium* 37: 161–396 (1969)
- Revised Nomenclature: *Systematic Botany Monographs* vol. 83 (2007)

Literature Cited

[CNPS] California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2026. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (online edition, v9.5.1). Website https://www.rareplants.cnps.org [accessed January 2026].

[CCH2] Consortium of California Herbaria Portal 2. 2026. Data provided by the participants of the Consortium of California Herbaria and the California Phenology Thematic Collections Network (CAP-TCN). Regents of the University of California, Berkeley and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Website http//:www.cch2.org/portal/index.php [accessed January 2026].

Heller, A. A. 1910. Notes on the flora of Nevada – I. *Muhlenbergia* 6: 49–52.

Howald, A. M. and A. Tiehm. 2018. Noteworthy Collections, California. Madroño 65: 67.

iNaturalist. 2026. Available at: https://www.inaturalist.org [accessed January 2026].

Kellogg, A. 1862 [1863]. New species of plants (paper read aloud at meeting). *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences* 2: 224–232.

NatureServe. 2026. NatureServe Explorer [web application]. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Website http://explorer.natureserve.org [accessed January 2026].

[POWO] Plants of the World Online. 2026. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Available at http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org [accessed April 2026].

Raven, P. H. 1969. A revision of the genus *Camissonia* (Onagraceae). *Contributions from the United States National Herbarium* 37: 161–396.

SEINet. 2026. SEINet Portal available at: https://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/# [accessed January 2026].

Wagner, W. L. 1993. *Camissonia* (and other genera) (Onagraceae) in Hickman, J. C. (editor) *The Jepson manual: Higher plants of California*. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.

Wagner, W. L., P. C. Hoch, and P. H. Raven. 2007. Revised Classification of the Onagraceae. *Systematic Botany Monographs* 83. American Society of Plant Taxonomists.

Wagner, W. L. 2022. *Eremothera* (Onagraceae) in Flora of North America Editorial Committee (eds.), *Flora of North America North of Mexico*, Volume 10. Website http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=203103 [accessed January 2026].

Wagner, W. L. 2025a. *Eremothera nevadensis* (Onagraceae) In: Jepson Flora Project (eds.), *Jepson eFlora*. Revision 13. Website https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=89186 [accessed April 2026].

Wagner, W. L. 2025a. *Eremothera boothii* subsp. *condensata* (Onagraceae) In: Jepson Flora Project (eds.), *Jepson eFlora*. Revision 13. Website https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=89186 [accessed April 2026].

Personal Communications

Messick, Tim. 2026. Botanist and expert on the flora of Mono County, especially the Bodie Hills. Email about occurrences of *Eremothera nevadensis* in California. Personal communication 9 January 2026.