

***Erigeron rhizomatus* Cronq.**
Zuni Fleabane, Rhizome Fleabane

Family: Asteraceae

Synonyms: None

NESL Status: G2

Federal Status: Listed Threatened (50 FR 16680 16682)

Description: Herbaceous perennial with creeping rhizomes; stems 2.5 – 4.5 dm tall, sparsely branching from the base, growing in clumps ca 3 dm in diameter; leaves alternate, oblong, ca. 1 cm long, glabrous with the occasional ciliate hairs on the margins; flower heads solitary, 13 – 16 cm wide, involucre bracts in several series; ray flowers 25 – 45, white or tinged with blue-violet, 6 – 7 mm long and 1.3 – 1.5 mm wide; disk flowers yellow. Flowering typically occurs from late May through June.

Similar Species: This species is distinct from other *Erigerons* by its rhizomatus habit, nearly hairless achenes, with 5-6 nerves, and very few hairs on the stems and leaves.

Habitat: Typically only found on fine textured clay hillsides of mid to high elevation between ca. 7000 and 8300ft. It is known from clays derived from the Chinle Formation in the Zuni and Chuska Mountains, and to similar clays of the Baca Formation in the Datil and Sawtooth ranges in New Mexico.

General Distribution: McKinley, San Juan and Catron counties, NM, and Apache Co., AZ.

Navajo Nation Distribution: Slopes of the Chuska Mountains from Lukachukai and west of Red Valley, Apache Co., AZ south to Navajo in McKinley County, NM.

Potential Navajo Nation Distribution: Chuska Mountains and in suitable habitat in the piñon-juniper associations between Lupton, Apache Co., AZ, and Prewitt, McKinley Co., NM.

Survey Period: Best during the flowering period between May and June, but can be identified by an experienced individual through July, possibly August. Suitable habitat can be identified year round.

Avoidance: A 200 ft buffer zone is recommended to avoid disturbance; may be more or less, depending on slope, size and nature of the project.

References:

- Arizona Rare Plant Committee. 2001. Arizona rare plant field guide: a collaboration of agencies and organizations. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office. <http://aznps.org/rareplants.html>
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- Cronquist, A. 1974. A revision of the North American species of *Erigeron* north of Mexico. *Brittonia* 6:121-300.
- New Mexico Native plants Protection Advisory Committee. 1984. A handbook of rare and endemic plants of New Mexico. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM.
- New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council. 1999. New Mexico Rare Plants. Albuquerque, NM. New Mexico Rare Plants Homepage. <http://nmrareplants.unm.edu>
- USDI Bureau of Land Management. 1995. The Farmington District Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Plant Field Guide. Prepared by Ecosphere Environmental Services, Inc., Farmington, NM.
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. 1988. Zuni fleabane (*Erigeron rhizomatus*) recovery plan. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, Albuquerque, NM.



Erigeron rhizomatus

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Erigeron rhizomatus habitat

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