

***Pediocactus peeblesianus* (Croizat) L. D. Benson ssp. *fickeiseniae* (Backeberg ex Hochstätter) Lüthy**
Fickeisen Plains Cactus

Family: Cactaceae **Synonyms:** *Navajoa fickeisenii* Backeberg, *Toumeyia fickeisenii* W.H. Earle

NESL Status: G3 **Federal Status:** Candidate

Plant Description: Stems 2.5 – 6.0 cm tall, 2.0 – 5.5 cm in diameter, spherical, usually solitary. Spines corky; central spine 1, 5 – 18mm long, radial spines 3 –7, each 4 –7 mm long. Flowers cream-yellow or yellowish-green, to 2.5 cm diameter, produced on the apex of the stem. Fruit top-shaped, smooth, turning reddish brown upon maturity. Flowering and fruiting occurs from mid March to late April, plants will retract into the soil in response to drought.

Habitat: Soils overlain by Kaibab Limestone in Navajoan desert or Great Plains Grassland, along canyon rims and flat terraces along washes, typically with limestone chips scattered across the surface. Populations are known to occur between 4000 and 6000ft elevation.

General Distribution: Arizona: Coconino Co., from House Rock Valley and Gray Mt., to the Little Colorado and Colorado rivers. Mohave Co., as far west as Dutchman Draw and Grandstand.

Navajo Nation Distribution: Gray Mountain to southwest of Bitter Springs, Coconino Co., AZ

Potential Navajo Nation Distribution: Marble Canyon to Gray Mountain.

Survey Period: Late March to late April. 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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- Heil, K, & J. M. Porter. 2001. Vascular Plants of Arizona: Cactaceae Part Five: *Pediocactus* and *Sclerocactus*. Journal of Arizona –Nevada Academy of Science 33(1): 9-18.
- Kelly, K. and J. McGinnis. 1994. Highly Safeguarded Protected Native Plants of Arizona. Arizona Department of Agriculture, Phoenix, AZ.
- McDougall, W.B. 1973. Seed Plants of Northern Arizona. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, AZ.
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Pediocactus peeblesianus ssp. *fickeiseniae*

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Pediocactus peeblesianus ssp. *fickeiseniae* habitat

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