

Flow chart for processing proposed additions or status changes to the CNPS Inventory and CNDDDB Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List

1. **Proposed Addition/Status Change Submitted to or Identified by CNPS.** Potential additions and changes to the CNPS Inventory are identified by, or proposed to, the CNPS Botanist, who initiates the review process prior to listing the proposal on the Rare Plant Status Review Forum (Status Review Forum) and sending the proposal out to Regional Plant Status Review Groups (Regional Review Groups).



2. **Information Query/Status Criteria Assessment.** The CNPS Rare Plant Program conducts a search of all pertinent information from relevant publications, available herbarium records, available CNDDDB reports, and information from experts who have direct knowledge of the distribution, taxonomy, and biology of the proposed taxon.



3. **Initial Status Review.** The CNPS Rare Plant Program and the CNDDDB Botanist, with assistance of knowledgeable experts, will initiate a status review, including a proposed ranking. The CNPS Botanist will send the status review documents to Regional Review Groups and other knowledgeable botanists by means of email, and post the proposed status review on the CNPS Status Review Forum for comment. **After 3 weeks**, the CNPS Botanist will send out a “Final Call” for information extending the Status Review Forum comment period **2 additional weeks**, notifying all involved groups and previously consulted experts, and request further clarification, comments, or additional expertise including the Rare Plant Program Committee (RPPC).

If a consensus of reasoning regarding status has been reached following the “Final Call”, the comment period will be closed. The CNPS Botanist will then make a final determination in consultation with the CNDDDB Botanist¹, and will post the change to the *CNPS Inventory*. If consensus has not been reached, proceed to step 3A.



3A. Second Status Review Period. If a consensus of reasoning is not reached during the initial review period, the CNPS Botanist shall consult with the RPPC, acquire additional supporting rationale and information, and initiate a second and final review period. **After 2 weeks**, if a consensus of reasoning regarding status has been reached, the comment period will be closed. The CNPS Botanist will make a final determination in consultation with the CNDDDB Botanist, and the change will be posted both to the *Inventory* and to CNDDDB. If consensus still has not been reached, proceed to step 3B



3B. In-Person Meeting or Postpone Decision. If a consensus of reasoning is not reached after a second review period, and no clear evidence for a logical determination has been acquired, then the CNPS Botanist shall: (1) convene an in-person meeting, including all interested parties with relevant botanical expertise, the CNDDDB Botanist, and at least one RPPC member, in order to make a collaborative status determination based on available information, and will post the change to the *Inventory*, or (2) postpone a determination until significant additional information has been acquired.

¹ If consultation between CNPS Botanist and CNDDDB Botanist leads to disagreement among the two parties in the determination, then Step 3B will be initiated.