

April 10, 2020

Mr. Eric Sklar, President
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
Sent electronically to: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Support for Petition to List Shasta snow wreath as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act

Dear Mr. Sklar,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal to list Shasta snow wreath as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. Protecting our state's biodiversity is a core value of California's citizens. Given the reality of climate change, habitat loss, and a whole host of other threats it is especially important to conserve plants like Shasta snow wreath.

Shasta snow wreath (*Neviusia cliftonii*) is an emblem of how special our state's biodiversity is. Species like Shasta snow wreath are a primary reason that most of California is recognized as one of 36 Global Biodiversity Hotspots. Shasta snow wreath is a rare shrub in the Rose Family, discovered in 1992, that only occurs in Shasta County. It is a remarkably rare species with only 24 documented locations spanning a range of 20 miles from north to south and 12 miles from east to west. Globally-speaking, that is it! Consequently, it is of utmost importance that public and private landowners take actions to conserve and properly manage for all populations of Shasta snow wreath.

The proposal to raise Shasta Dam threatens numerous populations of Shasta snow wreath via inundation and activities associated with construction. While many populations of this species occur on land managed by the U.S. Forest Service others occur on land that is privately owned. The increased protections afforded by its listing as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act will ensure that actions affecting Shasta snow wreath on private and public lands receive the utmost scrutiny.

I strongly support a decision by the Fish and Game Commission that listing Shasta snow wreath under the California Endangered Species Act is warranted, and initiating a one-year status review period.

Thank you very much for supporting the conservation of California's rare flora.

Sincerely,