

From: [Christina Selby](#)
To: [Mason, Wendy, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Amendment 19.21.2 NMAC
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:43:04 AM

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Dear Ms. Mason,

As a resident of New Mexico and a naturalist with a passion for our native plants, thank you for the opportunity to write and express my support for the Amendment 19.21.2 that changes the definition of "take" for endangered plants in New Mexico.

In 1998, American botanists James Wandersee and Elisabeth Schussler defined Plant Blindness as "the inability to see or notice the plants in one's own environment," which leads "to the inability to recognize the importance of plants in the biosphere and in human affairs." All too often, plants are ignored or overlooked for conservation efforts and protection. In New Mexico, this has resulted in the continued decline of the plants listed on our State endangered plant list over the past several decades.

This rule change acknowledges that stronger efforts are needed to protect and conserve New Mexico's endangered plant species. The rule change will allow plants to receive the equal protections that endangered animals are already afforded in our state.

Thanks for your consideration,

Christina Selby

Author, Photographer, Naturalist