From: Wendy Brown
To: Mason, Wendy, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of the proposed rule change to protect endangered NM plants
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:46:39 AM

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Dear Ms Mason:

I am writing to express my full support of the proposed amendments to the State of NM rule to protect endangered plants.

EMNRD proposes to amend the definition of "take" to include harm, kill, and destroy because the current rule does not reflect the intent of NMSA 1978, Section 75-6-1 to protect and conserve endangered plant species as it only regulates the removal of endangered plants with the intent to possess, transport, export, sell, or offer for sale. The current rule does not regulate the harm, killing, or destruction of endangered plants from other activities or the intentional destruction of endangered plants.

I spent much of my career in the Endangered Species program with USFWS, and worked closely with the excellent staff for the State of NM , Bob Sivinski and Daniella Roth. I retired in 2014, but remain active in the Native Plant Society of New Mexico Native Plant.

Although we are all proud of your accomplishments in conservation and recovery, I firmly believe that NM plants need the added protections proposed. Many New Mexico plants are currently in decline.

Sincerely,

Wendy M. Brown
Endangered Species Recovery Chief, (RETIRED, 2014)