

## Leather Flower Comments

—

## Neil Gullickson

---

**From:** Bruce J Higgins <ppr1\_llc@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 13, 2012 7:08 PM  
**To:** Neil Gullickson  
**Cc:** Tish Bogan-Ozmun  
**Subject:** Info on Arizona clematis or Arizona leatherflower or Clustered Leatherflower, Clematis hirsutissima Pursh var. arizonica (A. Heller) Erickson

**Categories:** Red Category

The state contact is:

Sabra Tonn - HDMS Program Coordinator  
Phone: (623) 236-7618  
Fax: (623) 236-7366  
Email: [stonn@azgfd.gov](mailto:stonn@azgfd.gov)

Here is the link to this clematis in the USDA's PLANTS database:

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=CLHIA>

**It status:**

### **Threatened and Endangered Information:**

*Clematis hirsutissima* Pursh var. *arizonica* (A. Heller) Erickson

This plant is listed by the U.S. federal government or a state. Common names are from state and federal lists. Click on a place name to get a complete protected plant list for that location.

#### Arizona:

Arizona clematis      [Highly Safeguarded](#)

It is also a Forest Service "sensitive species\*" under the species (no variety recognized): This plant was formerly considered to be a narrow endemic with the name *Clematis hirsutissima* var. *arizonica*. Variety *arizonica* was placed in synonymy with variety *hirsutissima* in the *Flora of North America*, Vol. 3, thus the variety now has a much broader range. The plant remains rare in Arizona and has been retained by the State as an endangered plant (Highly Safeguarded under the Arizona Native Plant Law).

\*- those taxa occurring on National Forests in Arizona which are considered sensitive by the Regional Forester. [Practically, this means the FS must address the affect of activities on them in projects and ensure their continued presence on the Forest.]

**It's range:** is Az & NM. In Az, it is only known from Coconino County. Specifically, "from the Flagstaff vicinity along the Rio de Flag and Lower Lake Mary, upper Volunteer Canyon, San Francisco Peaks, and the Tusayan area...."

#### Notes:

##### [Source 1:](#)

This taxon's standing as a true variety has been called into question, and a morphological study showed that there was no clear difference between this variety (var. *arizonica*) and the more common variety (var. *hirsutissima*). (Pringle 1997) However, the U.S. Forest Service lists it as a sensitive species.

Arizona leatherflower is an herbaceous perennial understory species with purple nodding bell-shaped

flowers. It is found on limestone outcroppings in ponderosa pine forest. Plants are 20-70 cm high with erect, weak, or trailing stems emerging from a somewhat woody base. Leaves are pinnately compound with 7-13 leaflets. The showy purple flowers are displayed individually at the end of each stem and become heads of golden feathery seeds in late summer.

These plants may be a great indicator of forest health. Their greatest reproduction occurs in intermediate shade with little forest litter. Extremely heavy shade reduces growth and reproduction, but full sun can dry seeds and plants. In the ponderosa pine forest, this species faces threats including timber harvest, controlled thinning and burning, cattle and elk grazing, and development. (Maschinski & Phillips 1993)

In Arizona, the taxa most commonly grows on soils derived from Kaibab limestone in small colonies in ponderosa pine forests sometimes covering only fractions of an acre. Requires only moderate shade.

Northern reaches of the species habitat is mixed conifer forest and much more mesic than the Arizona populations experience.

**Photos:**



## Neil Gullickson

---

**From:** Bruce J Higgins <ppr1\_llc@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 4, 2013 12:02 PM  
**To:** Neil Gullickson  
**Cc:** Tish Bogan-Ozmun; Rick/Ann Miller; brhorton@capstoneecos.com  
**Subject:** Re: Comments on Canyon del Rio Developers, LLC proposed re-zoning

**Categories:** Red Category

Hi, Neil:

I'm not a botanist, although I took several classes in school long ago and have lots of work experience with local native ecosystems.

I think the clematis may survive if it is simply not:

- dug up or paved over
- trampled by human use patterns created by development (including pedestrians/bicyclists cutting corners)
- dewatered or flooded by development
- unshaded or shaded out by development (seems to prefer partial shade)
- crowded out by introduced weeds (especially knapweed & thistles) arising from development

bjh

On 9/3/2013 4:23 PM, Neil Gullickson wrote:

Bruce, thanks for the note, I will make sure it gets to the Planning and Zoning Commission prior to their review of the application, which I do not anticipate happening for some time yet.

I still have the information your forward to me a year ago regarding the Arizona Clematis. I mentioned the flower to the developer's representative several weeks ago and am anticipating discussing the possible impacts and mitigations with the developer as the application matures. Let me know if you don't start getting the P&Z agendas. Best N.

---

**From:** Bruce J Higgins [[mailto:ppr1\\_llc@yahoo.com](mailto:ppr1_llc@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 03, 2013 11:25 AM  
**To:** Neil Gullickson; [brhorton@capstoneecos.com](mailto:brhorton@capstoneecos.com)  
**Cc:** Tish Bogan-Ozmun; Bruce J Higgins  
**Subject:** Comments on Canyon del Rio Developers, LLC proposed re-zoning

Hello:

I am a resident of the City of Flagstaff in the Foxglenn neighborhood. I frequently jog by the area proposed for rezoning, both along Butler Avenue and on the FUTS trail through the property.

I am not opposed to the changes proposed, since Flagstaff has a need for more housing, particularly affordable/attainable housing. Higher density housing is likely to be more affordable

than less dense housing. However, to maintain many of the environmental amenities most of us cherish in Flagstaff, and to address the need for a business activity center (S18 in the draft Regional Plan), my support comes with some caveats:

- There are populations of Arizona clematis on parcels E1, F and probably E2. The plant is rare in Arizona and has been retained by the State as an endangered plant (Highly Safeguarded - No collection allowed - under the Arizona Native Plant Law). **It's range:** is Az & NM. In Az, it is *only known from Coconino County; specifically, "from the Flagstaff vicinity along the Rio de Flag and Lower Lake Mary, upper Volunteer Canyon, San Francisco Peaks, and the Tusayan area...."* It is also a Forest Service "sensitive species" under the species, *Clematis hirsutissima*. I have walked through the area and can provide some site-specific locations, if desired. Most are on steeper north or east-facing slopes and could probably be generally avoided & protected without a lot of effort.



- The Flagstaff Urban Trails and Bikeways Map (Third Edition, June 2013), produced by the City of Flagstaff, shows a FUTS trail that crosses the Canyon del Rio property, from 4th St to Herold Ranch Rd. This trail has fallen into disrepair, including the removal of the vehicle barriers at both ends and at numerous points along the trail. It is suffering damage as a result. One driver I confronted in a vehicle on the trail said she knows the owners and that it is no longer part of FUTS. I don't know if this is true or not, but a route through this area is essential to connect east Flagstaff to downtown in a scenic and safe manner. Since the existing route does pass through the corner of parcel N, it seems reasonable to reestablish the trail's FUTS status, if it is no longer part of the system, thus providing for it in any re-zoning action. Protection for the trail's non-motorized status should be designed into any development plans, as well.
- Currently, residents of nearby neighborhoods must drive at least 3 miles for groceries and some other commercial services that are frequently used by nearly all residents. It would be important to retain the commercial capability for a suburban activity center very near here, as envisioned by the draft Regional Plan.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Bruce J. Higgins

PS - It has proven to be very difficult to remain on P&Z mailing lists, and notice of this proposal was no exception. I spoke with Tammy Bishop this morning and am hopefully back on the list now. A more robust system should be in place to retain mailing lists as employee turnover or other changes occur. - bjh



