

US plucks tiny daisy from brink of extinction

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This undated photo courtesy of the US Fish & Wildlife Service shows the Maguire daisy. The tiny Maguire daisy, which grows in the desert southwest of the United States, has been plucked from the edge of extinction after a 25-year conservation effort, US officials have announced.

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The minuscule member of the sunflower family had dropped to just seven known [plants](#) when it was listed as endangered in 1985, but with numbers of the daisy now back up to 163,000 plants in 10 populations in Utah, it will be removed from the endangered species list, the Interior Department said Tuesday.

"Working in partnership with other federal agencies, state and local

governments, and other partners, we can ensure irreplaceable plants and [animals](#) such as the Maguire daisy and the habitat they depend upon are preserved for future generations," said Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Tom Strickland.

The Maguire daisy (Latin name: *Erigeron maguirei*) is a perennial plant with white or pink flowers roughly the size of an American dime or a one-cent Euro coin.

The daisy joins 20 other mostly animal species that have been removed from the [endangered species list](#), including the brown pelican, the bald eagle, a symbol of the United States; the Arctic [peregrine falcon](#) and the American alligator.

The tiny daisy will be monitored for at least 10 years to ensure that it continues to flourish and to watch for "potential threat factors."

If, during the monitoring process, officials notice a decline in the population of the Maguire daisy, they could take steps to put it back on the endangered list.

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