

the Sierra Club.

✓ SV ^{Flowers} spineflower closer to endangered listing

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SANTA CRUZ — The Scotts Valley spineflower, focus of controversy in a proposed Scotts Valley housing development, has been officially proposed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Late last month, the proposal to extend federal protection to *Chorizanthe robusta* var. *hartwegii*, was published in the Federal Register, a preliminary step before extending the plant the protection of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Endangered status was also proposed for four other local wildflowers, including the Monterey spineflower, the robust spineflower, the Ben Lomond spineflower and the Ben Lomond wallflower.

"These five (plants) are imperiled by one or more of the following factors: habitat destruction due to residential development, agricultural development, sand mining, military activities and encroachment by alien plant species," said the report.

Half a dozen patches of the Scotts Valley spineflower are scattered over three parcels in a 1-mile area in northern Scotts Valley.

One of those parcels, along Glenwood Drive, is the location for the proposed Glenwood Estates and Golf Course, which would include a 276-unit housing development and an 18-hole golf course.

The other two parcels, known as the Polo Ranch property, also had housing proposed for them. However, the Polo Ranch was purchased earlier this year by software manufacturer Borland International, which said it was holding the land for "future expansion" but had no immediate plans for the property.

Comments on the proposal will be accepted by the Wildlife Service until Dec. 23.

Comments may be sent to the Office Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Field Office, 2140 Eastman Ave., Suite 100, Ventura 93003.

For information, call (805) 644-1766.