

Sindeldecker Run BDA

This BDA is drawn around an occurrence of **purple bedstraw** (*Galium latifolium*), a vulnerable plant species of concern in the Commonwealth. This plant species is considered globally secure, but it is listed as vulnerable at the northern edge of its range, including both Pennsylvania and Maryland (NatureServe 2007). Within Pennsylvania, this species occurs in the Ridge and Valley Province including the Franklin, Perry, Fulton, Blair and Juniata counties. There are historic records in Bedford and Huntingdon Counties as well. Associated tree species in the surrounding dry-oak forest include chestnut oak (*Quercus montana*), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) and northern red oak (*Q. rubra*).

Threats and Stresses

Threats to current populations of purple bedstraw include habitat loss and alterations in plant composition due to over browsing by white-tailed deer and invasion by exotic plant species (PNHP Data 2007). Timbering and other forestry activities may affect this population of purple bedstraw by direct disturbance and opening up the canopy, thus allowing more light to the forest floor. The trailside location of this population makes it highly susceptible to trampling by foot traffic, as well as trail maintenance and improvement activities.

Conservation Recommendations

This site is within the Buchanan State Forest and is therefore largely protected from landscape conversion. However, land management practices ranging from trail improvement to forestry activities may affect this population. Specific location information of this rare species should be made available to DCNR foresters and trail maintenance workers to prevent damage to the purple bedstraw population. Forestry practices should be limited within the core area of the site. Annual monitoring for invasive species should be performed and such species should be removed when discovered.