

Endangered Plants

The endangered plants of Colorado span from the plains to the mountains, but are often overlooked. It's easy to think more highly of ourselves or other animals, but without the plants the whole ecosystem could collapse.

Some examples are the Pagosa skyrocket, which grows in places where the conditions are just right. Often found growing near roadsides where soil can be disturbed, this species is difficult to encounter.

Another example that is endangered is the Mancos milkvetch, which was discovered in the rock of Mesa Verde in 1875. It was feared extinct for nearly a century before it was rediscovered in 1980.

Another native plant is the Osterhout milkvetch, which faced threats when a reservoir on Muddy Creek was filled in 1995.

Many of these plants are threatened by humans. We hurt plants with our vehicles, with our pollution, and with pure carelessness. The ecosystem needs these plants and thrives from them. Any tiny step helps.