

# *Phacelia beatleyae* – Beatley scorpionflower

Family: Boraginaceae (borage)

**Bloom Period:** April-June

**Annual:** Upright, small, one to few stems, 2-4 inches tall, stems always leafy, reddish stem

**Leaves:** Fleshy, dark green, no basal leaves, not lobed or toothed margins (entire), curled toward underside, generally have leafstalks that attach leaves to stems (petiolate)

**Flowers:** White to purple, yellow tube, flower short 0.2 inches (but up to 0.3 inches during good precipitation), covered with fine hairs bearing glands upon their tips (glandular), borne on one side of a coiled flowering stalk

**Fruit/seed:** Seed capsule holds 40-50 seeds, seed < 0.04 inches, angular in shape, round at the tips, deeply pitted

**Uniqueness:** Grows only in Nevada (endemic); as a winter germinator it requires precipitation at critical times during the winter; therefore, populations fluctuate over the years

**Location it was first identified (type locality):** South face of French Peak Mountain, Nye County, NV, North Frenchman Flat (Beatley & Reveal 1971)

**Associated Vegetation:** Saltbush, creosote, blackbrush



## Subfamilies

Phacelias are placed in the subfamily Hydrophyllloideae, commonly known as the waterleaf family. Plants in this subfamily have flowers that grow along the tip of the stem that curl into the shape of a scorpion tail (also called a fiddleneck). The plants also have bristly hairs which many people are allergic to and can cause a rash.



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**Habitat:** Steep, barren, loose volcanic slopes and outcrops with open exposure for the most part devoid of vegetation, soils are light-brown to white volcanic tuff, plants can be locally common but specific to light colored soil

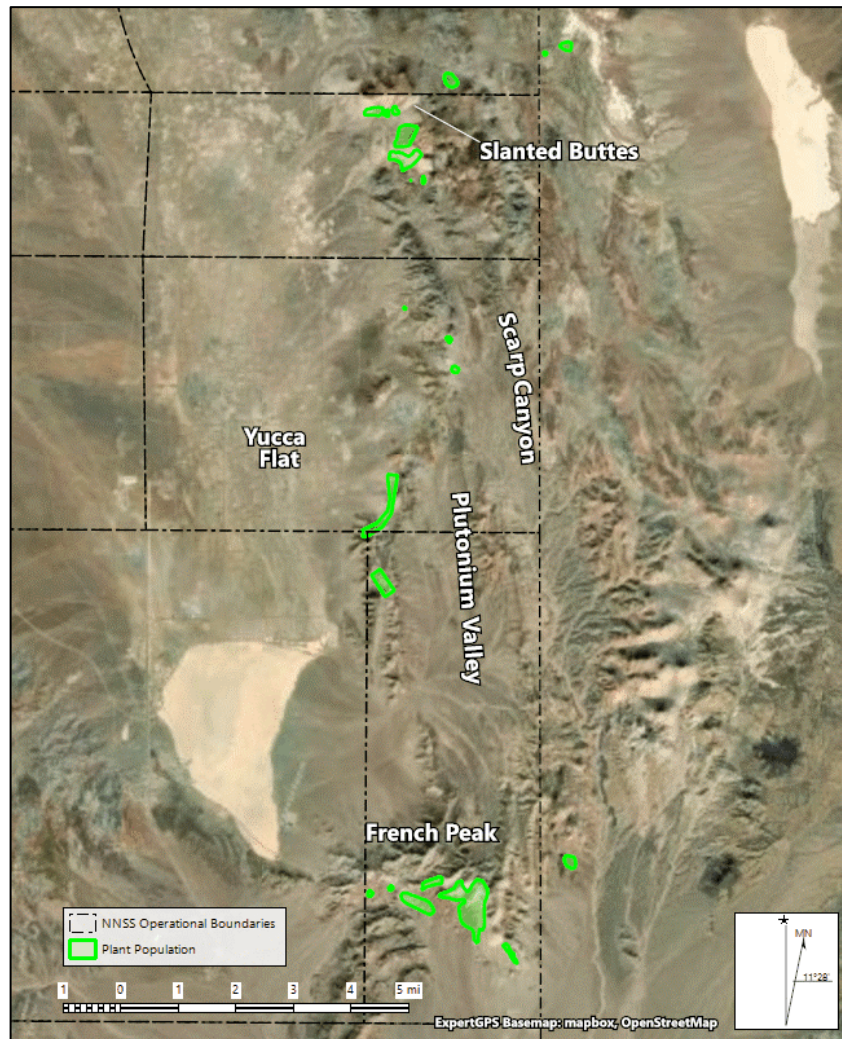
**Distribution:** NV (Nye County)

**Elevation:** 3,805-5,807 feet



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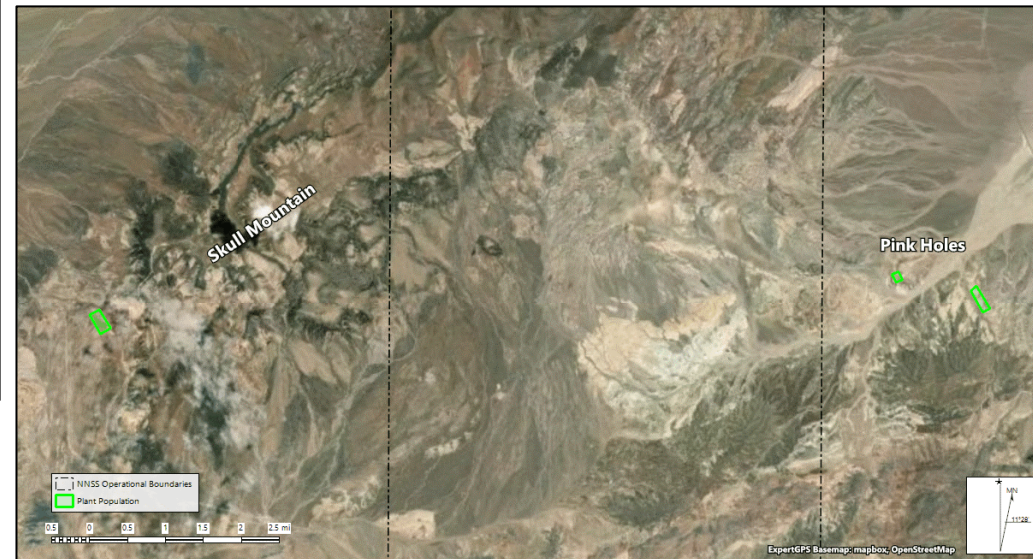


**Distribution on the NNSS:** Skull Mountain, Halfpint Range (Slanted Buttes, Scarp Canyon), Yucca Flat (Plutonium Valley), French Peak, Pink Holes; ~620 acres of habitat

**Threats on the NNSS:** Several populations grow on relatively steep, inaccessible slopes, which provide it a level of protection from NNSS activities; French Peak populations are near an explosives facility and could be threatened by accidental wildland fire

**Protection Status (NV):** No federal or state protections. Listed on the Nevada Division of Natural Heritage At-Risk Plant and Animal Tracking List and the Nevada Native Plant Society Watch List (<https://heritage.nv.gov/documents/ndnh-current-tracking-list>)

**Current Monitoring Goal:** Survey subset of populations once every 5 years



Contact 702-295-0393 if your activity might potentially impact this sensitive species