

# FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

## The Aztec Gilia



Photo: © Al Schneider, [www.swcoloradowildflowers.com](http://www.swcoloradowildflowers.com)

### TROUBLE FOR THE AZTEC GILIA

The Aztec Gilia is only found in San Juan County, New Mexico, which includes parts of the Navajo Nation and Bureau of Land Management land. This plant is threatened by intensive oil and gas development in the region, pipeline construction, and off-road vehicle use.

### PROTECTING HIGH DESERT HABITAT

Though protected as “endangered” by the state of New Mexico, this state designation does not protect the flower’s habitat. The flower grows within the range of the Great Basin desert at elevations of 5,000-6,400 feet. Protecting the Aztec Gilia under the federal Endangered Species Act would provide necessary safeguards for the plant’s desert habitat.

### KNOW YOUR GILIA

- A Beauty: the Aztec Gilia is also known as the “Beautiful Gilia.” With its diminutive lilac to lavender colored petals, this flower stands out in desert landscapes.
- Bloom Time: the Aztec Gilia’s trumpet-shaped flowers bloom in late April to early May.
- Finicky: mitigating habitat destruction is difficult because the flower does not transplant well. Though it reseeds naturally, growers have had little success starting the plant from seed.

### CLIMATE CHAOS

The Aztec Gilia evolved in the desert and is adapted to withstand harsh, arid conditions. However, the magnitude of drought predicted to increase in the U.S. southwest as climate change continues might be too much for the Aztec Gilia to survive.

