

## Dwarf Cinquefoil

**Range:** endemic to the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

**Endangered species listing:** 1980

**Critical habitat designated:** 1980

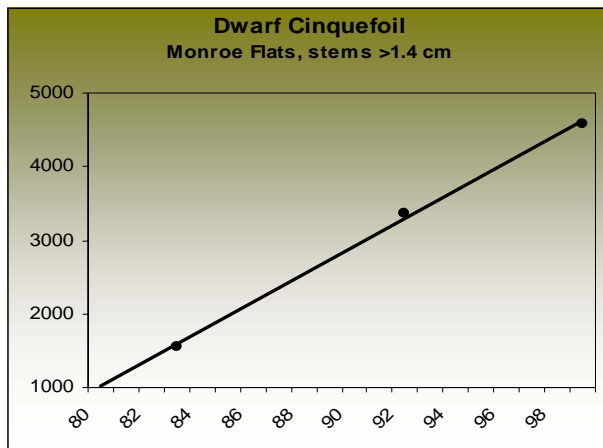
**Federal recovery plans:** 1983

**Delisted due to Recovery:** 2002

**Status since listing:** Increased



Dwarf or Robbins' cinquefoil (*Potentilla robbinsiana*) is a small perennial member of the rose family endemic to Mt. Washington and Franconia Ridge within the White Mountains National Forest, New Hampshire. When placed on the endangered species list in 1980, only two populations were known, a natural population at Monroe Flats and an introduced population at Camel Patch. Monroe Flats was designated as critical habitat. Over-collection was formerly a threat, but largely controlled by 1980. The primary threat at that point was recreational impact associated with the Appalachian Trail. The trail bisected the Monroe Flats population, extirpating the cinquefoil from the west side, severely curtailing it on the east side within eight meters of the trail, and causing an overall population decline of 75%. In 1984, a small population was rediscovered at a historic site on Franconia Ridge. In 1988 a new population was established on Franconia Ridge. Three of the four populations were considered viable (i.e. >50 plants) when the species was declared recovered and removed from the endangered species list in 2002.



**Northeast Highlight:** The primary population at Monroe Flats grew from 1,547 plants in 1983 to 4,575 in 1999 due to a propagation and augmentation program run by the New England Wildflower Center, and habitat protection efforts by the Appalachian Mountain Club and the U.S. Forest Service. The latter groups rerouted a section of the Appalachian Trail that bisected the dwarf cinquefoil population so that the trail instead ran outside the designated critical habitat

zone. Recreational access was prohibited within critical habitat, and a scree wall and educational signs were placed along the habitat border. Compliance with the measures has been 98% successful. Propagation efforts have established over 100 new plants at the site.