UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
NEW MEXICO PLANT MATERIALS CENTER
LOS LUNAS, NEW MEXICO

And

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE CENTER AT LOS LUNAS
LOS LUNAS, NEW MEXICO

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF A SELECTION OF NARROW LEAF PENSTEMON SELECTED CLASS OF GERMPLASM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), United States Department of Agriculture and the New Mexico State University (NMSU) Agricultural Science Center at Los Lunas announce the release of a selected class of narrow leaf penstemon (*Penstemon angustifolius* Nutt. ex. Pursh) for the southwestern United States.

As a selected release, this germplasm will be referred to as the San Juan Germplasm of narrow leaf penstemon. It has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9066069. San Juan germplasm is released as a selected class of certified seed (natural track).

The alternative release procedure is justified because existing commercial sources of narrow leaf penstemon are inadequate. The commercial sources that do exist have not been selected for performance under agronomic conditions. Propagation material of this species is needed for ecosystem restoration and enhancement and for beautification in urban and rural landscaping situations. The potential for immediate use is high. No commercial cultivars of narrow leaf penstemon have been previously released.

Collection Site Information: San Juan germplasm was originally collected as seed in 1990 from native plants on BHP-Minerals Navajo Mine, south of the town of Fruitland, New Mexico. Soils are sandy loams.

Location:	North: 36^0 42.9 West: 108^0 24.6
Elevation:	1793 meters

Description: San Juan germplasm narrow leaf penstemon is a stout, smooth, waxy, gray green perennial herb. The plant grows from 20 to 50 cm with several stout, erect or somewhat curving stems. The flowers range from 17 to 23 mm and are various shades of violet and pink. Guidelines may or may not be present. The leaves are gray-green and waxy.

Methods of Breeding and/or Selection: From a narrow leaf penstemon collection from the San Juan basin of New Mexico. The collection was evaluated for survival under agronomic conditions. After 5 years of establishment in fields at the New Mexico Plant

Materials Center, plants were selected for hardiness. Seed from hardy plants were collected and used to establish the San Juan germplasm field of narrow leaf penstemon.

Environmental Impact Assessment: San Juan germplasm narrow leaf penstemon is a selection of naturally occurring germplasm. San Juan germplasm did not meet the assessment of a plant, which could become invasive based on guidelines adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

Anticipated Conservation Use: The potential uses of the San Juan germplasm include erosion control, wildlife food/cover, restoration of disturbed sites, increasing plant diversity of rangelands and for low water use beautification of urban and rural landscapes.

Anticipated Area of Adaptation: Narrow leaf penstemon is found from western Kansas to southern Utah, southward into New Mexico and northern Arizona. It commonly inhabits sandy places on plains, hills and dunes at 1520 to 2128 meters.

Availability of Plant Materials: Breeder and/or foundation seed will be maintained at the NRCS New Mexico Plant Materials Center. Seed will be distributed to interested growers through the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association.

References:

1. Heflin, Jean. 1997. Penstemons The Beautiful Beardtongues of New Mexico. Jackrabbit Press. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
2. Martin, W.C. and C.R. Hutchins. 1980. A Flora of New Mexico. J. Kramer. Vaduz, West Germany.
3. Kearny, T.H. and R.H. Peebles. 1942. Flowering Plants and Ferns of Arizona. U.S. Government Printing Office. Washington, D.C.

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Signatures for release of:

San Juan Germplasm Narrow leaf Penstemon (*Penstemon angustifolius*)

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