

# Endangered Species on Fort Liberty

## AMERICAN CHAFFSEED (*Schwalbea americana*)



### DESCRIPTION:

- A member of the snapdragon family.
- A non-woody plant with bright yellow – purple tubular flowers.
- Flowers bloom from April to June.
- Entire plant is densely covered with tiny hairs.
- Grows 1-2 feet tall.
- A “hemi-parasite” – receives some of its food and water from the roots of other plants.

### HABITAT AND RANGE:

- Found in pine forests with seasonally moist sandy soils.
- Requires frequent growing season fire to reproduce.
- Currently found along the coastal plain of New Jersey, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
- Fort Liberty is a major population center for this plant.



### THREATS AND PROTECTION:

- The primary threat is lack of fire. Fire naturally removes plants that compete for light, water, and nutrients. Endangered plant sites on Fort Liberty are burned during the growing season (Apr – Oct) every 3 years or less to keep plants healthy.
- Habitat loss from commercial development, like homes, factories, or farms.
- Fort Liberty prohibits any activity within endangered plant sites. These sites are marked with signs.