**ALETES HUMILIS**
**LARIMER ALETES**
Family: Apiaceae

**Status:**
US Fish & Wildlife Service: None (Former C2 candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.
Agency Status: USFS Region 2: Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:
Global: G2G3  State: SH
WYNDD Plant List: Regional Endemic (High Conservation Priority)

**Description:** Larimer aletes is a stemless, tap-rooted, mat-forming, perennial herb that grows 2-10 cm high. The leathery leaves are once or twice pinnately compound with mostly ovate and sharp-tipped leaflets. The inflorescence is a compound umbel of small yellow flowers and is typically shorter than the leaves. Branches of the inflorescence are unequal, glabrous, and usually over 2 cm long. Fruits are oblong and only slightly flattened, glabrous, and have poorly defined ribs (Fertig et al. 1994; Theobald et al. 1964).

**Similar Species:** *Cymopterus* [Oreoxis] *alpinus* has minutely scabrous, twice-pinnately compound leaves, fruits with thick ribs, and inflorescences taller than the leaves. *Musineon divaricatum* is taller, with leafy stems, and scabrous fruits and inflorescence branches. *Shoshonea pulvinata* has scabrous fruits and linear leaflets.

**Flowering/Fruiting Period:** Flowers April-May, mature fruits present June-July.

**Distribution:** Regional endemic of NC Colorado and SE Wyoming. In Wyoming, known only from the southern Laramie Range (Albany County) along the Wyoming/Colorado state line.

**Habitat:** In Colorado, Larimer aletes occurs in cracks and crevices with thin soils in rocky granite outcrops and cliffs of the Silver Plume Formation (Spackman et al. 1997). Plants are usually found on north-facing sites which do not receive continual direct sunlight at elevations of 6500-8700 feet. Goodding's 1902 collection from Wyoming is from "stoney cliffs" at ca 7200 feet.
Occurrences in Wyoming: One historical record (last observed in 1901) is known from the Wyoming/Colorado state line in southern Albany County.

Abundance: Population size unknown.

Trends: Unknown. Possibly extirpated, although no recent surveys have confirmed any trends.

Protection status: Believed to occur on state or private lands.

Threats: Unknown. Due to ruggedness of habitat, species is not likely to be threatened.

Managed Areas: Potential habitat may occur in Medicine Bow National Forest in the southern Laramie Range or in the eastern foothills of the Medicine Bow Range. The Denver Botanic Garden is maintaining a seed bank for this species.

References:


Mills, S. and M. Neighbours. 1995. Intensive data gathering project (fine-filter analysis) for
occurrences of rare, threatened, endangered and sensitive species in sections M331H and M331I, north central highlands and northern parks and ranges, in Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared for Medicine Bow National Forest by the Wyoming Natural Natural Database, Laramie, WY.


