ARCTOUS RUBRA  
[ARCTOSTAPHYLOS RUBRA]  
RED MANZANITA  
Family: Ericaceae

Status:  
US Fish & Wildlife Service: None  
Agency Status: USFS Region 2: Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:  
Global: G5  State: S1  
WYNDDD Plant List: Disjunct (medium conservation priority)

Description: Red manzanita is a mat-forming prostrate shrub up to 20 cm high with shreddy bark. The leaves are slightly leathery with conspicuous venation and lightly toothed margins. The deciduous leaves turn brilliant red in late summer. Flowers are produced in groups of 1-3, and are urn-shaped, greenish-white, and loosely clustered in leaf axils. Fruits are red, fleshy berries (Fertig et al. 1994; Hitchcock et al. 1959).

Synonyms: Arctous rubra, Arctostaphylos alpina var. rubra

Similar Species: Arctostaphylos uva-ursi has entire, evergreen leaves without noticeable side veins and mealy, red fruit. Gaultheria humifusa is smaller in stature and has fleshy-coated, capsular fruits.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers May-June. Fruit present July-September.

Distribution: Eastern Siberia to Newfoundland, south to Alberta. Disjunct in Wyoming where it is restricted to the Clarks Fork Valley in the northern Absaroka Mountains. This is the only known population in the lower 48 United States.

Habitat: In Wyoming, this species occurs at the edge of Picea glauca woods on moist (but not flooded), peat-rich soils at 6600 feet. Commonly associated with Juniperus horizontalis, Betula glandulosa, Salix planifolia, and S. candida.

Occurrences in Wyoming: One occurrence is found in Wyoming (and the entire contiguous United States) and was last observed in 1999.
Above: *A. rubra* habitat by Jennifer Whipple.

**Abundance:** Locally common in suitable habitat at Swamp Lake, but restricted to a very small geographic area (less than 1.5 sq miles).

**Trends:** Population appears stable over last 10 years. Additional monitoring needed to determine longer term trends.

**Protection Status:** Protected within the Swamp Lake Special Botanical Area in Shoshone National Forest.

**Threats:** Threats low, primarily threatened if hydrology of the Swamp Lake wetland is severely disturbed.

**Managed Areas:** Only known from the Shoshone National Forest.

**References:**


Author: Walter Fertig
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