

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

ARGYROCHOSMA FENDLERI
FENDLER CLOAK-FERN
Family: Pteridaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low conservation priority)

Description: Fendler cloak-fern is a perennial with brown scaly root-stalks. Leaflets are reddish-brown, up to 25 cm long, and densely clustered. The triangular leaf blades are 5-25 cm long, evergreen, and divided into numerous multi-lobed leaflets arranged in a zig-zag branching pattern. Leaflets are glabrous above and white-mealy beneath. Sporangia are not covered by an indusium (Lellinger 1985).

Synonyms: *Notholaena fendleri*.

Similar Species: No other Wyoming fern species has leaflets with white-mealy undersides.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Spores produced in summer and fall. Reproduces by spores that are dispersed by the wind. Produces 64 spores per sporangium.

Distribution: Southeastern Wyoming to Arizona, western New Mexico, and Sonora, Mexico. In Wyoming, known only from the Laramie Range in Laramie County.

Habitat: Dry crevices of granite cliffs and rocks. In the southern part of its range it is



Above: *Argyroschisma fendleri* by Jane Dorn (from Dorn & Dorn 1972).

also found on volcanic outcrops. Of 6 species in this genus in North America, *A. fendleri* is the only species occurring on acidic substrates. The Wyoming population is found in ledges and crevices in granite cliffs at 6900-7100 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single occurrence in Wyoming, last observed in 1995.

Abundance: The single known Wyoming occurrence is restricted to a small area in a well shaded canyon below Crow Reservoir dam. The population was estimated at 50-100 individuals in 1995.

Trends: The single population appears to be stable. When surveyed in 1979, Dorn estimated the population at 3-80. A similar population estimate was made in the 1995 re-survey.

Protection status: This occurrence is located just outside of Curt Gowdy State Park and

receives no formal protection. The dam on Crystal Lake Reservoir (just above the plant's habitat) is maintained for irrigation and is unlikely to be removed in the near future.

Threats: Threats are minimal due to the plant's rugged cliff habitat.

Managed Areas: Found just outside of Curt Gowdy State Park.

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Author: Walter Fertig

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