

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*ASTRAGALUS LEPTALEUS*  
PARK MILKVETCH  
Family: Fabaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: Targhee NF Sensitive  
USFS R2 sensitive

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: SH

Range Context: Regional Endemic/Edge

Wyoming Contribution Rank: Unknown

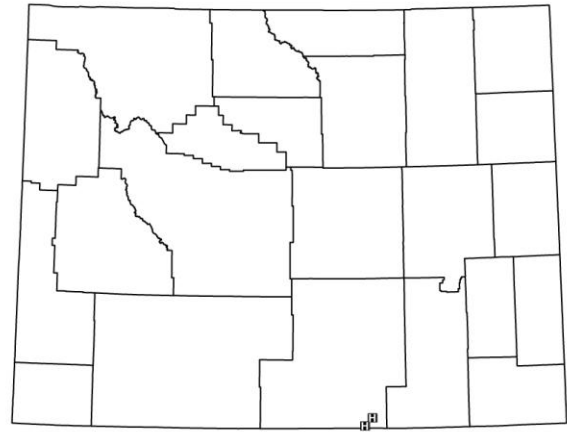
Description: Park milkvetch is a perennial herb with scattered stems arising from a slender, branching caudex. Leaves consist of 15-23 leaflets that are glabrous above. Stipules of at least the lower leaves are united on the side opposite of the petiole. Flowers are pea-like, white with a lilac-tipped keel and arranged in a loose, 1-6 flowered raceme. The calyx has short, straight, appressed hairs. Fruit are drooping, sparsely hairy pods with a stalk less than 1.5 mm long (Barneby 1964; Dorn 2001).

Similar Species: *Astragalus alpinus* differs in having a purple-tipped keel, purple-margined banner, flowers that are often concealed by foliage, and pods that have more black hairs. *A. bodinii* has a stouter root and vivid purple flowers.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June - September.

Distribution: Regional endemic with a bimodal distribution in east-central Idaho and western Montana, and south-central Wyoming and north-central to central Colorado. In Wyoming it is known only from Carbon County in the Sierra Madre and the Saratoga

Valley. According to Barneby (1964) "... to be expected in western Wyoming".



Wyoming distribution of *Astragalus leptaleus*.

Habitat: Sedge-grass meadows, swales and hummocks, and among streamside willows. Elevation 8,400 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 occurrences in Wyoming, most recently observed in 1951.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known, possibly historical.

Protection status: All known occurrences are on public or state lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Species is edible and could be vulnerable to high grazing.

Managed Areas: Occurs on the Medicine Bow National Forest.

References:

Barneby, R.C. 1989. Fabales, Vol. 3 Part B. IN: A. Cronquist, A. H. Holmgren, N.H. Holmgren, J.L. Reveal, and P.K. Holmgren. Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, USA. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. 279 pp.

Dorn, R.D. 2001. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, third edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Ladyman, J.A.R. (2006, February 24). *Astragalus leptaleus* Gray (park milkvetch): a technical conservation assessment. [Online]. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/scp/assessments/astragalusleptaleus.pdf>

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