

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CASTILLEJA NIVEA
SNOW PAINTBRUSH
Family: Scrophulariaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3 State: S2

WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic
(Watch list)

Description: Snow paintbrush is a low, perennial herb 0.5-1.5 dm tall. The erect or ascending stems are covered with short, woolly hairs. The lower leaves are linear, entire, and also covered with woolly hairs. Flowering bracts are 3-parted, yellow, hairy, and have acute lobes. The calyx is 15-20 mm long and subequally cleft into 4 linear segments. The corolla is minutely hairy and 18-25 mm long. The prominent lower lip of the calyx is strongly pouched. The galea is about half as long as the lower lip. The fruit is a capsule (Hitchcock et al 1959, Scott 1997, Dorn 1977).

Similar Species: *Castilleja pilosa* differs in having upper stems and bracts that are only minutely hairy and is commonly found at lower elevations. *C. pallescens* has a calyx that is divided into unequal lobes (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: This species is a regional endemic of Montana and NW Wyoming. In Wyoming, known only from the Beartooth and Absaroka ranges in Hot Springs and Park counties.



Above: *Castilleja nivea* by Walter Fertig.

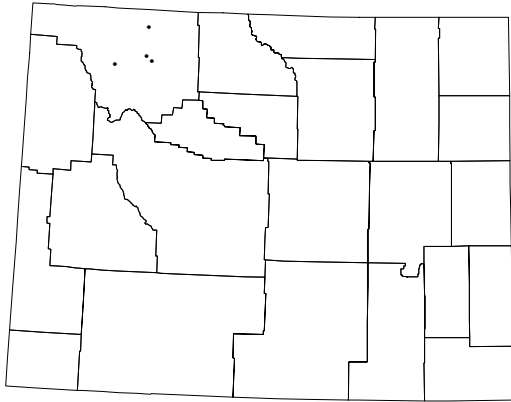
Habitat: This species is found in montane and alpine habitats including rocky tundra, meadows, and fellfields on gravelly limestone soils at 6600-9200 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from ca 20 occurrences in Wyoming, most of which have been observed since 1980.

Abundance: Not known. Census data are lacking for nearly all known sites. Recently observed populations in the eastern Absarokas have been found to be locally common, although often widely scattered.

Trends: Presumed to be stable.

Protection Status: At least 8 populations occur in designated wilderness areas (Washakie and North Absaroka). Three additional populations are found in the proposed Bald Ridge RNA and potential Pat O'Hara Mountain and Sheep Mesa RNAs. One population is also found in the BLM's Carter Mountain ACEC. All other known populations occur on public lands managed for multiple use.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *C. nivea*.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Shoshone National Forest, the BLM Cody Field Office and Buffalo Bill State Park.

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