

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CHRYSOTHAMNUS GREENEI
GREENE RABBITBRUSH
Family: Asteraceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low
conservation priority)

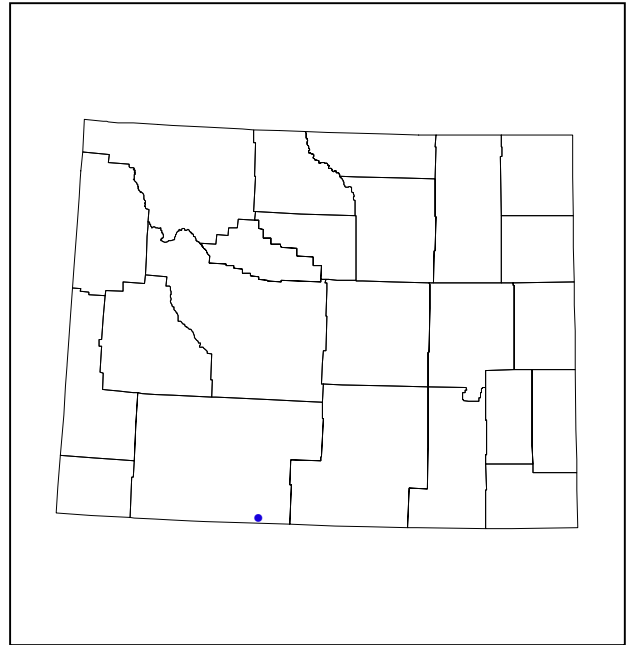
Description:

Greene rabbitbrush is a multi-branched shrub with glabrous, white-barked stems mostly 1-3.5 dm tall. Leaves are alternate, linear, flat, glabrous (except for the scabrous margins), 1-veined, 1-4 cm long, and 0.8-1.2 mm wide. Flower heads are arranged in a terminal, corymb-like inflorescence. Each head consists of a 5-8 mm high involucre of spine-tipped bracts and 4-5 yellow disk corollas (ray flowers are lacking). Fruits are pubescent achenes 3-4 mm long (Dorn 1992; Cronquist 1994; Welsh et al. 1993).

Similar Species: *Chrysothamnus vaseyi* has glabrous achenes and blunt-tipped involucre bracts. *C. viscidiflorus* has glabrous or pubescent, twisted leaves that are mostly over 1.2 mm wide and 1-3 veined and blunt-tipped involucre bracts (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Late July-September.

Distribution: Occurs from southern Wyoming to northern New Mexico and west to Nevada and southeast California. In Wyoming, this species has been confirmed only from the Washakie Basin in Sweetwater County.



Wyoming distribution of *Chrysothamnus greenei*.

Habitat: Cronquist (1994) reports *C. greenei* from "dry open places in the desert, often in sandy or gravelly soil". The single known Wyoming population is found on rocky desert flats at 7000 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single confirmed occurrence in Wyoming, first discovered in 1987. Recent collections from the Overthrust Belt and Flaming Gorge area (Refsdal 1996) are based on misidentified specimens of *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*. Loran Anderson has reviewed the Wyoming material and noted that the Washakie Basin population is probably *C. greenei*, but may have genetic influences from another species (R. Dorn, personal communication, March 2001).

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: Known populations are on public lands managed for multiple use, with

an emphasis on livestock grazing, recreation, and mineral development.

Threats: Not known. This species is probably not adversely affected by grazing.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by the BLM Rawlins Field Office. Reports from the BLM Kemmerer and Rock Springs Field Offices were based on misidentified specimens.

References:

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American species of *Artemisia*, *Chrysothamnus*, and *Atriplex*. Publ. Carnegie Inst. Wash. 326: 1-355.

Refsdal, C.H. 1996. A general floristic inventory of southwest Wyoming and adjacent northeast Utah, 1994-1995. Unpublished report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management Wyoming State Office, Bureau of Land Management Vernal Supervisor's Office, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Forest Service Region 4 by the University of Wyoming, Rocky Mountain Herbarium, Laramie, WY.

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Updated: 01-03-28