

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CIRSIUM FOLIOSUM
LEAFY THISTLE
Family: Asteraceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: Bighorn National Forest
Species of Local Concern.

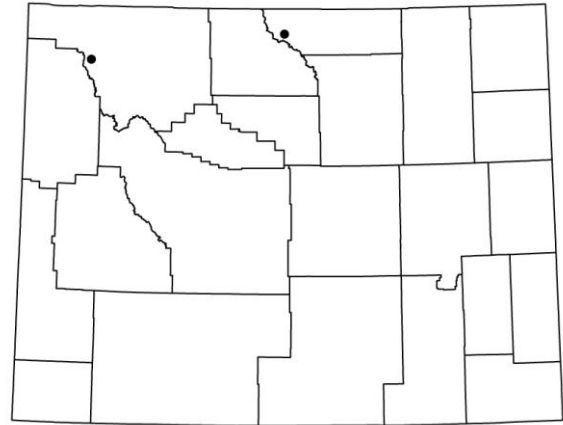
Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1
Range Context: Disjunct
Wyoming Contribution Rank: Low

Description: Leafy thistle is a taprooted perennial forb with fleshy, unbranched, pubescent, leafy stems 25-70 cm tall. Leaves are linear to oblanceolate, 10-18 cm long, shallowly lobed with fine yellow spines 3 mm long, and are clasping, but not decurrent down the stem. The leaves are thinly hairy above and thinly to densely tomentose beneath with a mix of thin and multi-celled hairs. Flower heads are sessile and borne in clusters of 5 or more at the tip of the stem and are exceeded by the uppermost leaves by up to 10 cm. The involucre is ca 2 cm high with 4-5 rows of non-glandular, non-dilated, spine tips. Corollas are 18-25 mm long, white or pale pink, and equal in length to the feathery pappus. Fruits are light-brown achenes 4.5-5.5 mm long with a yellowish raised rim at the apex (Dorn 2001; Moore and Frankton 1964).

Similar Species: *Cirsium scariosum* has a pappus shorter than the corolla, and the inner involucre bracts often have dilated and lacerate tips. *Cirsium hookerianum* has leaf bases that extend down the stem for 6-30 mm (Dorn 2001).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-August.



Wyoming distribution of *Cirsium foliosum*.

Distribution: Alaska to Alberta, south to Washington, Idaho, Montana, and northern Wyoming. In Wyoming it is known only from the Bighorn Range and Yellowstone Plateau in Park and Sheridan counties.

Habitat: This species inhabits moist areas along roadsides, in meadows, and on slopes at 8000 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from only two collections in Wyoming, both last made in 1971.

Abundance: Unknown.

Trends: Unknown.

Protection status: One occurrence is protected within Yellowstone National Park. The other population is on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Potentially threatened by expansion of roads (although this might also create new habitat).

Managed Areas: Occurs in Bighorn National Forest and Yellowstone National Park.

References:

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Cronquist, A. 1994. Intermountain Flora, Volume 5: Asterales. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

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

Flora of North America Editorial Committee. 2006. Flora of North America north of Mexico. Vol. 19. Magnoliophyta: Asteridae (in part): Asteraceae, part 1. Oxford Univ. Press, New York. xxiv + 579 pp.

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