-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CYPRIPEDIUM FASCICULATUM
CLUSTERED LADY'S-SLIPPER
Family: Orchidaceae

Status:
US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: USFS Region-2: Sensitive, USFS Region-4: Sensitive

Heritage Rank:
Global: G4 State: S2
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct (Medium conservation priority)

Description: Clustered lady's-slipper is a perennial herb with densely pubescent, drooping stems 5-20 cm tall growing from a compact rhizome with fibrous roots. The plant has only 2 leaves which are broadly elliptic, opposite, and borne at or below the middle of the stem. The inflorescence consists of 2-4 tightly clustered, greenish-brown to purplish flowers in the axils of narrow, green bracts. The pouch-like lip petal is dull yellow with purple mottling and is shorter than the sepals. The fruit is an elliptical, pubescent capsule (Dorn 1992; Fertig et al. 1994; Luer 1975).

Synonyms: *Cypripedium knightae.*

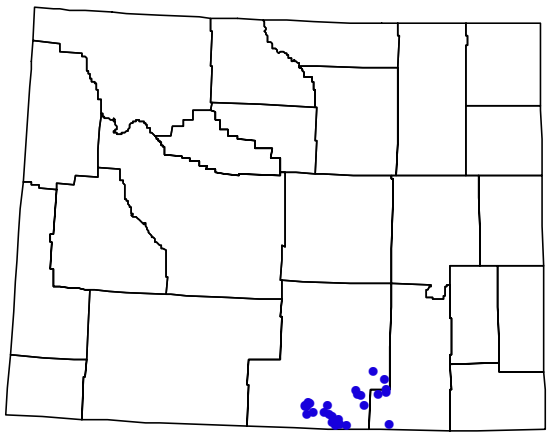
Similar Species: *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *pubescens* has yellow lip petals while those of *C. montanum* are white. Both species have leafier stems. *Epipactis gigantea* has a taller stem with three or more alternate leaves.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers and fruits early May-late July.

Above: *Cypripedium fasciculatum* by Steve Wirt from Fertig et al. (1994).

Distribution: Occurs in the Cascade and Coast ranges from southern British Columbia to central California and in the Rocky Mountains from Montana to northern Utah and Colorado. In Wyoming, this species is restricted to the Medicine Bow Range and the Sierra Madre in Albany and Carbon counties.

Habitat: Dry to moist, open lodgepole pine forest or spruce-fir forest. Wyoming populations may occur along roadcuts in partial sun and on level terraces above streams in Lodgepole pine/Grouse whortleberry communities at elevations of 8000-10000 feet.



Wyoming distribution of *Cypripedium fasciculatum.*

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 22 extant records in Wyoming (12 of which have been observed since 1987) and 3 historical records in Wyoming.

Abundance: Most known occurrences contain relatively few individuals. The largest known populations have ca 1000 plants.

Trends: Populations in Wyoming may be in decline due to loss of habitat associated with logging practices. Recent findings suggest, however, that the species may be more widespread than previously known and more resilient to these threats.

Protection status: No occurrences are currently found within any designated special management areas. Two populations in the Sierra Madre are located within the potential Deep Creek Research Natural Area. All known occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use by the US Forest Service.

Threats: May be impacted by road building or other actions associated with logging. Plants may also be susceptible to overharvest by people seeking medicinal roots or garden plantings.

Managed Areas: Found on Medicine Bow National Forest.

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