

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*CYPRIPEDIUM MONTANUM*  
MOUNTAIN LADY'S-SLIPPER  
Family: Orchidaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None (Former C2 candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.)

Agency Status: USFS R2 sensitive

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1

Range Context: Widespread/edge

Wyoming Contribution Rank: Low

Description: Mountain lady's-slipper is a glandular-pubescent herb with leafy stems 20-60 cm tall. The sessile leaves are broadly elliptic to ovate in shape and alternate on the stem. The inflorescence contains 1-3 showy flowers, each of which is subtended by an erect, leafy bract. The narrow sepals and petals are brownish-purple and usually twisted or wavy. The white lip petal is slipper-shaped and 2-3 cm long. The fruit is a capsule (Dorn 2001, Fertig et al. 1994).

Similar Species: *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *pubescens* has a yellow lip petal. *C.*

*fasciculatum* has a smaller lip petal and a single pair of opposite stem leaves (Dorn 1992, Fertig et al. 1994).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May to July.

Distribution: Alaska to central California, east to Alberta and Wyoming. In Wyoming it is known from the Bighorn Mountains in Johnson and Sheridan counties.



Above: *Cypripedium montanum* by William Jennings.

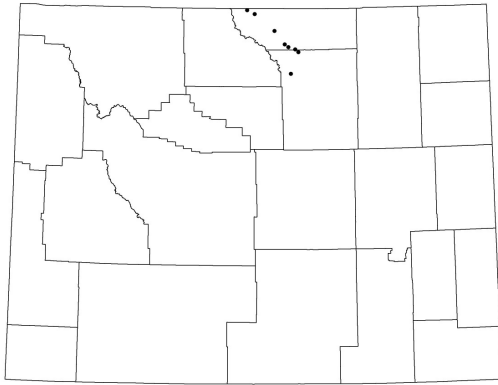
Habitat: This species is found in shady forests and meadows at middle elevations (4500-6900 ft). Occurs with conifers, birch, and aspen in areas of thick duff and ground cover.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 7 extant populations (last observed in 2007) and 1 historical record in Wyoming.

Abundance: Populations range from very sparse (less than 50) to over 500 individuals.

Trends: Not known. May be in decline in the last 100 years.

Protection status: Five populations occur on National Forest lands managed for multiple use. One population falls on a TNC easement, and one occurs on BLM land.



Wyoming distribution of *Cypripedium montanum*.

Threats: Threatened by grazing, habitat loss, and over-harvesting.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Bighorn National Forest and BLM Buffalo Field Office.

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