

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

DRABA BOREALIS
BOREAL DRABA
Family: Brassicaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: Listed as Sensitive in Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S2
WYNDDB Plant List: Disjunct (Low conservation priority)

Description: Boreal draba is a rosette-forming perennial herb with one to several erect to drooping, leafy stems 5-40 cm tall. The stem and basal leaves are mostly oval and coarsely toothed. Stems and leaves are pubescent with spreading, simple, forked or branched hairs. The flowers have four white petals. The pubescent fruits are 7-14 mm long, sometimes twisted, borne on hairy pedicels over 3.5 mm long, and have styles 0.5-1.0 mm long (Dorn 1992; Fertig et al. 1994).

Similar Species: *Draba aurea* has yellow flowers, entire leaves (occasionally with a few teeth) and a smaller stature. *D. praealta* has styles less than 0.3 mm long. *D. incerta* has yellow flowers and leafless stems (Fertig and Marriott 1993; Fertig et al. 1994).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers mid-June to mid-August. Fruits July to early September (USDA Forest Service 1989; USDA Forest Service 1991).

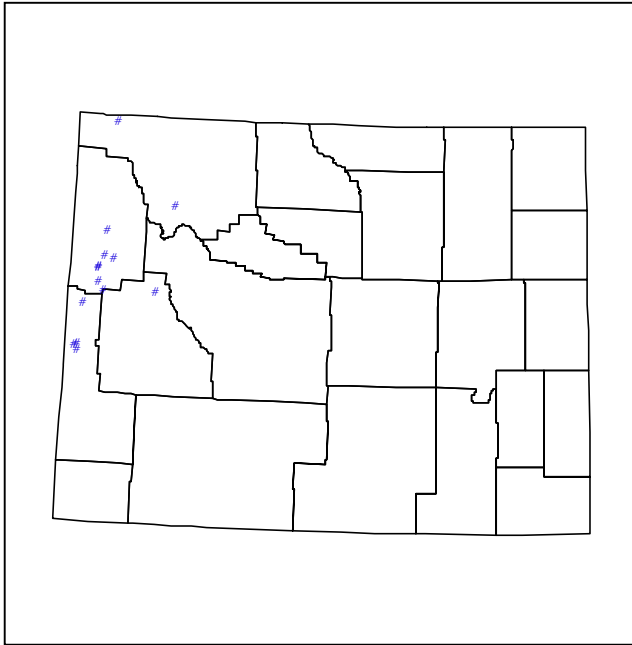
Distribution: Found from Asia to northern Alaska, and Alberta. Disjunct in Colorado and the western mountains of Wyoming. In Wyoming, it is known from the southwestern



Above: *Draba borealis* by Kaye Thorne from USDA Forest Service (1991).

Absaroka, western Wind River, Gros Ventre, Salt River and Wyoming ranges, Jackson Hole, and the Yellowstone Plateau (Lincoln, Park, Sublette, and Teton counties).

Habitat: North-facing limestone, dolomite or volcanic slopes, cliffs, and riparian areas. Substrate ranges from moist talus, to loamy alluvium, to mossy mats (Fertig and Marriott 1993). Elevation 6200-8550 ft.



Wyoming distribution of *Draba borealis*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 12 extant and 2 historical records in Wyoming, 9 of which have been discovered or relocated since 1991.



Above: *Draba borealis* in typical, moss-rich limestone cliff habitat. Photo by Walter Fertig.

Abundance: Populations typically number 100-1000 individuals (Fertig and Marriott 1993). The total population is probably less than 5000 plants.

Trends: Not known, but probably stable.

Protection status: At least eight occurrences are protected in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, the National Elk Refuge, Bridger, Gros Ventre, and Washakie Wilderness Areas, and the Swift Creek and Gros Ventre (Horse Creek) Research Natural Areas.

Threats: Threats low for most populations due to rugged cliff habitat. Plants in more accessible wetland sites are potentially threatened by grazing or loss of habitat.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Bridger-Teton and Shoshone National Forests, Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, and the National Elk Refuge.

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