

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

DRABA GLABELLA
ROCK WHITLOW-GRASS
Family: Brassicaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

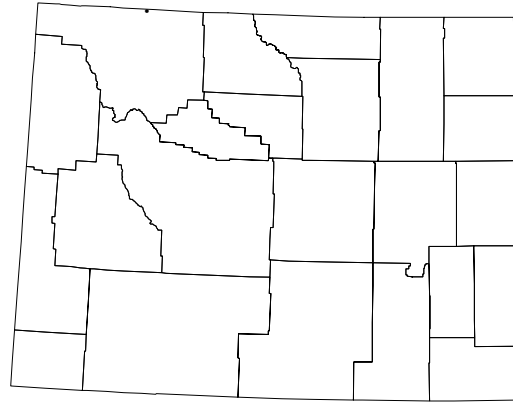
Global: G4G5 State: SH

WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct (Medium conservation priority)

Description: Rock whitlow-grass is a short-lived perennial herb with a simple to branched rootstalk. The 1-several stems are 10-30 cm tall and have simple or branched hairs (at least towards the base). Leaves are mostly basal with oblong to oblanceolate blades 0.4-2 cm long and 1-8 mm wide. Basal leaves are hairy on the surface and entire to toothed or ciliate on the margins. Stem leaves are sessile, entire to toothed, and number 2 or more. The inflorescence is a short raceme of 5-30 white, 4-petaled flowers. Petals are 3-5 mm long and spoon-shaped with entire margins. Fruits are glabrous, flat to twisted, linear-lanceolate siliques 7-15 mm long with styles 0.2-0.5 mm long (Dorn 1992; Rollins 1993; Scott 1997).

Similar Species: *Draba verna* has deeply bilobed petals, fruits that are less than three times as long as wide, and all basal leaves. Other white-flowered *Draba* species in Wyoming are matted perennials with compact inflorescences and 2 or fewer stem leaves or have pubescent fruits (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May-July (Rollins 1993).



Above: Wyoming distribution of *D. glabella*.

Distribution: Disjunct; in Wyoming, known only from the Beartooth Range in Park County.

Habitat: This species inhabits rocky places near shores and alpine tundra (Rollins 1993, Scott 1997). In Wyoming, found at 10500 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single historical occurrence last observed in 1959.

Abundance: Census data are lacking, but the population was described as "widely scattered" (Johnson 1962).

Trends: Not known.

Protection Status: This population may occur within the proposed boundaries of the Line Creek/Twin Lakes Research Natural Area. Its exact location is ambiguous.

Threats: Only one occurrence is reported for the state, and it has not been relocated since its discovery in 1959. The population was observed on sheep trails on steep northwest slopes in alpine tundra, which suggests the

site is on fragile vegetation possibly impacted by livestock.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Shoshone National Forest.

References:

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Johnson, P.L. 1962. The occurrence of new arctic-alpine species in the Beartooth Mountains, Wyoming-Montana. *Madrono* 16(7): 229-233.

Rollins, R.C. 1993. The Cruciferae of Continental North America, Systematics of the Mustard Family from the Arctic to Panama. Stanford Univ. Press, Stanford, CA.

Scott, R.W. 1997. The Alpine Flora of the Rocky Mountains. Volume 1 The Middle Rockies. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, UT.

Welp, L., W.F. Fertig, G.P. Jones, G.P. Beauvais, and S.M. Ogle. 2000. Fine filter analysis of the Bighorn, Medicine Bow, and Shoshone National Forests in Wyoming. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

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