

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

DRABA JUNIPERINA
UINTA DRABA
Family: BRASSICACEAE

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G2G3Q State: S2

WYNDD Plant List: Regional

Endemic (Medium Conservation Priority)

Description: Uinta draba is a mat-forming perennial herb from a much-branched caudex. Leaves are primarily basal and have linear to linear-oblong blades 2-14 mm long and 0.5-1.5 mm wide. Leaves are pubescent with appressed doubly-pectinate hairs (appearing like two combs placed back to back). Flowering stalks are erect, 3-15 cm tall, and pubescent with doubly-pectinate hairs. The inflorescence is an elongate raceme of 4-petaled yellow flowers 4-5 mm long and has erect, pubescent pedicels. Fruits are elliptic to ovate siliques 4-7 mm long and covered with doubly-pectinate hairs. Styles in fruit are 0.8-1.5 mm long and under 0.2 mm wide (Dorn 1978, 1992).

Synonyms: *Draba oligosperma* var. *juniperina*; Included in *D. oligosperma* (Rollins 1993) or *D. pectinipila* (Rollins 1953) by some authors.

Identification Comments: Long styles, tall growth form, fruits with doubly pectinate hairs, and pinyon-juniper habitat are distinctive.

Similar Species: *Draba pectinipila* (sensu stricto) has styles 0.3-0.7 mm long and over 0.2 mm wide and occurs in alpine talus habitats. *D. oligosperma* has glabrous pedicels, and fruits that are glabrous or have simple (unbranched) hairs. *D. incerta* has leaves over 1.5 mm wide and occurs in subalpine or alpine habitats (Dorn 1992; Lichvar 1983).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May-June.
Reproduces by seed.

Distribution: Regional endemic of SW Wyoming and NE Utah. In Wyoming, known from the southern Green River Basin and mountains on the east side of Flaming Gorge in Sweetwater and Uinta counties.

Habitat: Occurs primarily in *Juniperus osteosperma* woodlands on sandy-clay gravelly soils with abundant cryptogamic crusts and needle duff. Populations may also occur in *Artemisia nova* or *A. tridentata* grasslands on sandstones at the edge of *Juniperus* woodlands, semi-barren cushion plant communities on white clay-sandy rims, and *Cercocarpus montanus/Juniperus osteosperma/ Atriplex confertifolia* thickets. This species is absent from recently burned areas, sagebrush grasslands on dense clay soils, or *Sarcobatus vermiculatus* thickets.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 14 occurrences in Wyoming, all observed since 1977 (4 have been discovered or relocated since 1994, most recently in 1999).

Abundance: Populations may be extremely abundant locally, although the range of the species is relatively small. The largest known occurrence contained an estimated 800,000-1.5 million plants in an area of at least 360 acres in 1997.

Trends: Trend is probably stable.

Protection status: At least 4 occurrences are found within the BLM Currant Creek, Red Creek, and Sage Creek ACECs (USDI Bureau of Land Management 1997) and one is in the Red Creek Badlands Wilderness Study Area. Most other occurrences are on public lands managed primarily for recreation, livestock grazing, and mineral development.

Threats: Most populations appear to be secure, although some may be negatively impacted by recreational activities (especially off-road vehicles and unregulated camping). Populations at the greatest risk are those near roadsides on erosive soils.

Managed Areas: Populations in Wyoming occur on lands managed by the BLM Rock Springs Field Office and Ashley National Forest (Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area).

References:

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