

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

DRABA PAYSONII VAR. *PAYSONII*
PAYSON'S DRABA
Family: Brassicaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T3 State: S2

WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic
(Low conservation priority)

Description: Payson's draba is a matted perennial forb from a branched caudex with coarsely hairy, unbranched flowering stems 0.5-3 (6) cm tall. Leaves are linear to spoon-shaped, 4-14 mm long, and pubescent with simple and biforked hairs on the upper surface and 3-branched hairs on the lower surface. The inflorescence is a raceme of 3-10 4-petaled yellow flowers on pubescent stalks. Fruits are coarsely hairy, ovate siliques 5-8 mm long with styles 0.8-1.8 mm long (Rollins 1993; Dorn 1992; Scott 1997).

Similar Species: *Draba paysonii* var. *treleasii* has fruits 3-5 mm long and 2.5-3.8 mm wide with styles under 0.8 mm long. *D. ventosa* has leaf blades over 2 mm wide covered with 3-branched hairs. Other alpine *Draba* spp. in Wyoming have white flowers, glabrate leaves (although margins may be ciliate), or leaves with doubly-pectinate hairs (hairs appear like two combs placed back to back) (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Regional endemic of W Montana and W Wyoming (also reported for Alberta by Mulligan, 1971). In Wyoming it



Above: *Draba paysonii* var. *paysonii* by W. Fertig.

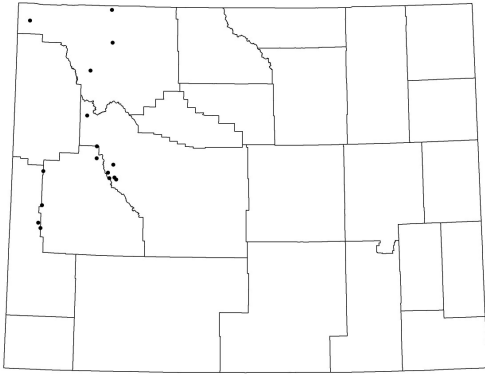
is known from the Yellowstone Plateau and the Absaroka, Beartooth, Wind River, and Wyoming ranges in Fremont, Lincoln, Park, and Sublette counties.

Habitat: This species is found on fellfields and other rocky places on hardpan clay and sand. Also located on dry alpine turf in rocky areas and on bare rock talus slopes on sandstone (Scott 1997, Rollins 1993). Wyoming populations occur at 9,400-12,600 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 16 extant populations in Wyoming, all of which have been observed or discovered since 1982 (5 have been observed since 1999). Also known from 2 vague historical reports.

Abundance: Known colonies are very small (numbering in the low 100s) and restricted to specialized microsites.

Trends: Presumed to be stable due to lack of threats and rugged habitat.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *Draba paysonii* var *paysonii*.

Protection Status: All or parts of 7 populations occur within wilderness areas (Absaroka-Beartooth, Bridger, and Fitzpatrick) or the Osborn Mountain Research Natural Area. An additional population is within the potential Beartooth Butte RNA and there is a population in Yellowstone National Park.

Threats: Not known, but assumed to be minor due to the plants rugged and poorly accessible habitat.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Bridger-Teton and Shoshone National Forests, and Yellowstone National Park.

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