

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

ERIGERON COMPACTUS VAR.
CONSIMILIS
SAN RAFAEL DAISY
Family: Asteraceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: None.

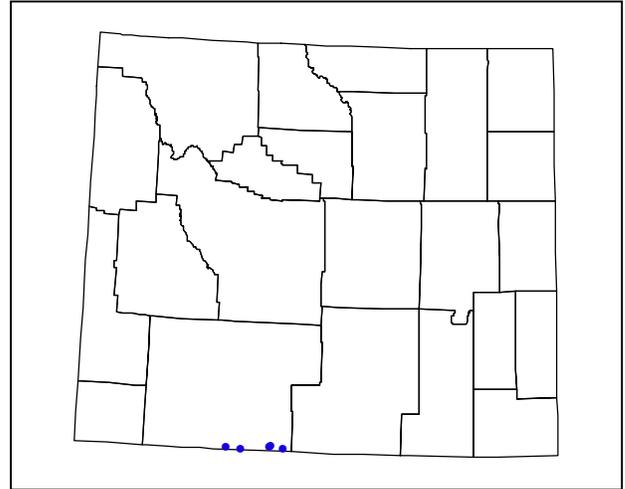
Heritage Rank:

Global: G4G5 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Regional Endemic
(Medium Conservation Priority)

Description: San Rafael daisy is a low perennial cushion plant with numerous flowering scapes to 10 cm tall. Its leaves are mostly basal, linear, entire, 4-20 mm long x 0.6-1.4 mm wide, and appear grayish-green because they are covered with white appressed hairs (hairs that are pressed close against the leaf surface). The nearly naked scapes also have appressed hairs and rise well above the basal leaves making a distinct leafless gap between the basal leaves and the solitary head at the top of each scape. The heads have yellowish or greenish phyllaries that are roughened with minute stiff hairs, white to pinkish ray flowers 6-11 mm long x 1.4-2.5 mm wide, 15-40 inner pappus bristles, and 2-nerved achenes that are glabrous except for long hairs along the marginal nerves (Welsh et. al. 1993; Cronquist 1947; Cronquist 1994).

Synonyms: *Erigeron consimilis*.

Similar Species: *Erigeron linearis* has yellow ray flowers. *E. radicans* has 6-12 pappus bristles and grows mostly at high elevations. *E. nematophyllus* and *E. engelmannii* have uniformly hairy achenes. *E. nanus* has leaves



Wyoming distribution of *E. compactus* var. *consimilis*.

more leaves along the scapes and more with mostly spreading hairs and ray flowers that are usually violet or purple, seldom white. *E. ochroleucus* var. *scribneri* has scapes with mostly spreading hairs.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers from May-early July.

Distribution: Regional endemic of eastern Utah, southcentral Wyoming, and Arizona. In Wyoming, it is restricted to the Washakie Basin, Powder Rim, and Rock Springs Uplift area in Sweetwater County.

Habitat: In Wyoming, populations are found on windy, gravelly, sandstone ridgetops with thin, rocky soils in cushion plant or open juniper communities at 6400-7500 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 5 occurrences in Wyoming, all of which have been documented or relocated since 1980 (most recently in 1997).

Abundance: No census information is available, but at one site the species was described as "frequent to infrequent".

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known populations are on lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Several populations in the Powder Rim area are found within a large oil and natural gas field. Possible impacts from mineral development are poorly known.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by the BLM Rawlins and Rock Springs Field Offices.

References:

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Ward, B.A. 1998. A floristic survey of south-central Wyoming. Masters Thesis, Department of Botany, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.

Welsh, S.L., N.D. Atwood, S. Goodrich, and L.C. Higgins, (eds). 1993. A Utah Flora, second edition, revised. Brigham Young University Print Services, Provo, UT.

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Updated: 00-03-28