

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

ERIGERON HUMILIS
LOW FLEABANE
Family: Asteraceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S2
WYNDD Plant List: Sparse (Low
Conservation Priority)

Description: Low fleabane is a perennial herb with loose, soft-hairy stems 1-3 cm high. The basal leaves are 1-2.5 cm long and narrowly oblanceolate, while the stem leaves are reduced and linear. The flower heads are solitary with numerous erect, white (sometimes pink) ray flowers 3.5-6 mm long and 0.5-1 mm wide. The involucre and stem are covered with loose, purplish-black hairs with prominent cross-walls. The pappus consists of 20-30 bristles. (Cronquist 1994; Dorn 1992; Duft and Moseley 1989; Moseley 1989).

Synonyms: *Erigeron unalaschensis*

Similar Species: *Erigeron melanocephalus* has broader, spreading ray flowers 7-15 mm long. *E. rydbergii* and *E. simplex* have primarily white-woolly involucre bracts.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Circumpolar, in North America south to central Idaho, northwest Montana, northern Wyoming, and Colorado (Duft and Moseley 1989). In Wyoming, known from the Wind River, Beartooth, Bighorn, Gros Ventre, and Absaroka ranges in Big Horn, Park, and Sublette counties. Reports from the



Above: *E. humilis* by S. Mellman-Brown.

Medicine Bow Range (Albany County) are probably based on immature specimens of *Erigeron melanocephalus*.

Habitat: Montane granite and limestone cliff faces, talus slopes, alpine meadows and tundra. Often in mossy, moist microsites.

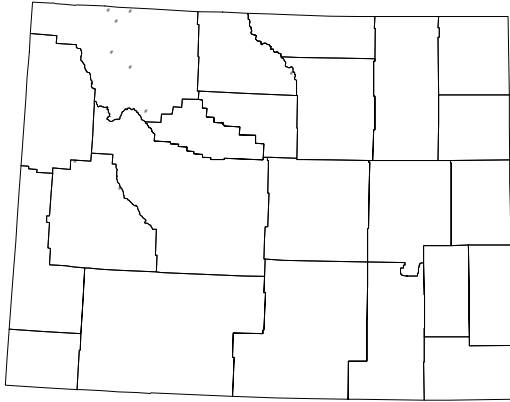
Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 9 records in Wyoming, 8 of which are recent and presumed extant (the oldest known record dates from 1955). Three sites have been located since 1990 (most recently in 1998).

Abundance: Known populations are small in number and occupied area. Surveys in 1996 in the Beartooth Mountains reported colonies of 10-25 plants.

Trends: Presumed to be stable at present, although no trend data are available.

Protection status: 8 of the 9 known occurrences are protected within designated wilderness areas (Bridger, Gros Ventre, Absaroka-Beartooth, North Absaroka, Cloud Peak, and Washakie).

Threats: Not known, but presumed to be low.



Wyoming distribution of *E. humilis*.

Managed Areas: Known from the Bighorn, Bridger-Teton, and Shoshone National Forests.

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