**State Species Abstract**
**Wyoming Natural Diversity Database**

**ERIGERON LANATUS**
WOOLLY FLEABANE
Family: Asteraceae

**Status:**
US Fish & Wildlife Service: None
Agency Status: US Forest Service Regions 2 and 4: Sensitive

**Heritage Rank:**
Global: G3G4 State: S1
WYND Plant List: Regional endemic (Medium conservation priority)

**Description:** Woolly fleabane is a perennial herb with leafless, white-woolly stems to 5 cm tall from a branched caudex. The soft-hairy leaves are clustered at the base of the plant and have oblanceolate blades 3 cm long and 5 mm wide with entire or shallowly 3-toothed tips. Flower heads are solitary with a densely-woolly involucre of purple-tipped bracts covered by multi-celled white hairs (these sometimes with purplish-colored cross-walls). The numerous ray flowers are white, blue, or pink and surround bright yellow disk flowers. Pappus bristles are white and usually in a single set (Cronquist 1955; Dorn 1992; Fertig 1992; Fertig et al. 1994; Scott 1997).

**Similar Species:** Erigeron flabellifolius has broadly fan-shaped leaves and glabrous or short-hairy stems and involucres. Erigeron compositus has twice-compound leaves divided into linear segments (Fertig et al. 1994).

**Flowering/Fruiting Period:**
July-August.

**Distribution:**
Occurs from southern British Columbia and Alberta to northwestern Montana, with disjunct populations in west-central Wyoming and central Colorado. In Wyoming, woolly fleabane is known from the northwestern Wind River Range in Sublette County.

**Habitat:** Woolly fleabane is restricted to thin patches of tan, pinkish, or reddish sandy soils and fine gravels among limestone boulders and talus on steep alpine slopes or rims. These sites often have a rich cryptogamic crust component and very sparse vegetative...
cover (often less than 5%). Common associated species include *Saussurea weberi*, *Erigeron compositus*, *Polemonium viscosum*, *Senecio amplectens*, *Parrya nudicaulis*, *Smelowskia calycina*, *Claytonia megarrhiza*, and *Draba ventosa*. Wyoming populations occur at elevations of 10,800-11,100 feet.

**Occurrences in Wyoming:** Known from 2 extant occurrences in Wyoming, both discovered since 1990 (most recently observed in 1994).

**Abundance:** Population estimated at 1000-1400 individuals in survey by W. Fertig in 1994 (Fertig 1999).

**Trends:** Populations appear to be stable based on observations from 1990-94.

**Protection status:** Both known populations are within the Bridger Wilderness area. Listed as Sensitive in USFS Regions 2 and 4.

**Threats:** Threats are minimal due to the ruggedness and low use of its habitat.

**Managed Areas:** Wyoming occurrences are all within Bridger-Teton National Forest.

**References:**


Author: Walter Fertig
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