

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*ERIOGONUM EXILIFOLIUM*  
SLENDER-LEAVED BUCKWHEAT  
Family: Polygonaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: USFS R2 sensitive

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3 State: S2

WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic  
(Medium conservation priority)

Description: Slender-leaved buckwheat is a taprooted perennial herb forming dense mats 10-20 cm across. Leaves are all basal with narrowly linear blades 1-2.5 mm wide and 3-6 cm long. Leaf blades are green and nearly glabrous above and densely white-woolly below with smooth slightly inrolled margins. The inflorescence is a compact head of 3-7 involucre borne on sparsely woolly stems 3-10 cm long. Each involucre is 2.5-3.5 mm long and 5-lobed. Perianth segments are white to rose colored, glabrous, 2-3.5 mm long, and lack a stipe-like base. Fruits are 3-angled, brown achenes 2-3.5 mm long (Dorn 1992; Fertig and Jones 1997; Reveal 1967, 1969).

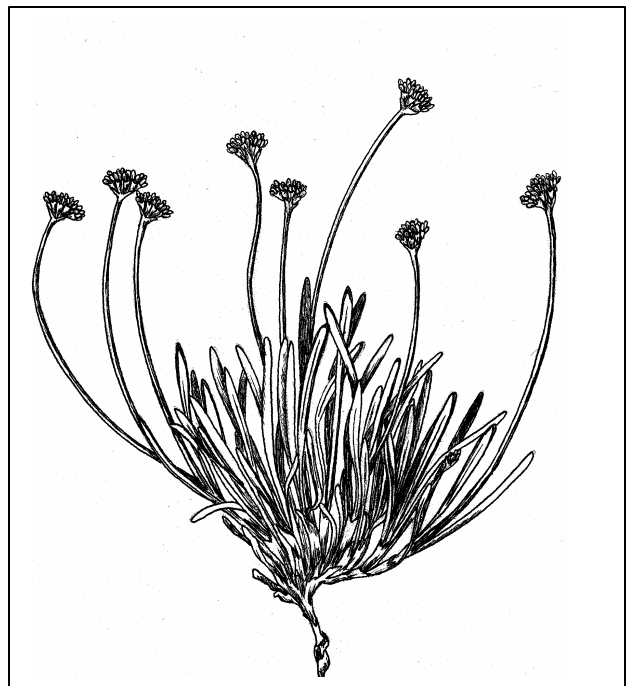
Similar Species: *Eriogonum pauciflorum* has wider leaves with grayish-white pubescence on the upper and lower surfaces and hairy perianth segments. *E. ovalifolium* has broadly oval, gray-woolly leaf blades and typically has longer flowering stems (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Mid June to late August.

Distribution: Regional endemic of south-central Wyoming (Albany and Carbon counties) and adjacent north-central Colorado



Above and below: *Eriogonum exilifolium* by Walter Fertig.



(Grand, Jackson, and Larimer counties)  
(Reveal 1967). In Wyoming, this species is restricted to the Laramie and Shirley basins and foothills of the Medicine Bow and Laramie ranges.

Habitat: Occurs on semi-bare sandy-clay gumbo flats, white shaley-gypsum ridges, red clay hills, and limestone outcrops in cushion plant-bunchgrass communities with low total cover at 6900-8600 feet. In the Shirley Mountains, this species is found on seleniferous clay-gumbo soils in barrow pits and dirt roadsides with average vegetative cover of 10-25%. Common associated species include *Eriogonum gordonii*, *Cirsium pulcherrimum*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*, *Haplopappus wardii*, and *Stanleya pinnata* (Fertig and Jones 1997).

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 7 occurrences in Wyoming, all of which have been relocated or discovered since 1979 (four of these have been located since 1995).

Abundance: May be locally common in appropriate microhabitats, but overall range in the state is low.

Trends: Some habitat has been lost to subdivision in the Laramie area.

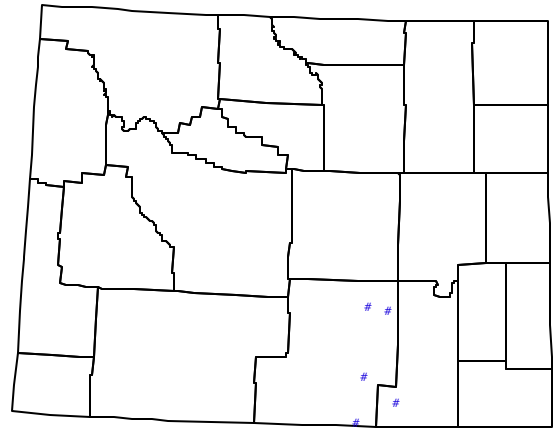
Protection status: All known populations are on public or private lands managed for multiple use. One small occurrence is within the potential Pass Creek Research Natural Area on Medicine Bow National Forest.

Threats: Threats relatively low. Plants appear to do well with some disturbance (such as on roadcuts exposing bare soil).

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Medicine Bow National Forest and the BLM Rawlins Field Office.

References:

Dorn, R.D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, second edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.



Wyoming distribution of *Eriogonum exilifolium*.

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Jankovsky-Jones, M., G. P. Jones, and W. Fertig. 1996. Ecological evaluation of the potential Sheep Mountain Research Natural Area within the Medicine Bow National Forest, Albany County, Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared for the Medicine Bow National Forest by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie WY.

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Porter, C.L. 1968. A Flora of Wyoming: Part VI. Research Journal 20:1-63. Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wyoming.

Reveal, J.L. 1967. Notes on *Eriogonum* -III. On the status of *Eriogonum pauciflorum* Pursh. Great Basin Naturalist 27:102-117.

Reveal, J.L. 1969. A revision of the genus *Eriogonum* (Polygonaceae). Unpublished PhD dissertation, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.

Author: Walter Fertig

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