

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*ERITRICHUM HOWARDII*  
HOWARD FORGET-ME-NOT  
Family: Boraginaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Regional Endemic  
(Medium Conservation Priority)

Description: Howard forget-me-not is a densely matted perennial herb with appressed-hairy stems under 10 cm tall (often appearing stemless). The densely silvery-hairy leaves are narrowly oblanceolate to elliptic and up to 2 cm long and 2 mm wide. Leaf tips are acute and lack a pronounced tuft of dense hairs. Flowers have a bright blue 5-lobed corolla 5-9 mm wide with a yellow center ("eye") and are borne in a dense cluster at the tip of the stems. The fruit consists of 1-4 sparsely-hairy nutlets (Hitchcock et al. 1959; Dorn 1992).

Similar Species: *Eritrichium nanum* has loosely hairy, green leaves with an obvious tuft of long hairs at the tip and usually occurs at higher elevations. *Myosotis* species have elongate stems and inflorescences.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-July.

Distribution: Regional endemic of northern Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. In Wyoming, known from the eastern Absaroka and Bighorn ranges in Johnson, Park, and Sheridan counties.

Habitat: Dry, open, often rocky places (often on limestone outcrops) in foothills and



Above: *Eritrichium howardii* by Walter Fertig.

montane cushion plant communities at elevations of 7600-9000 feet.

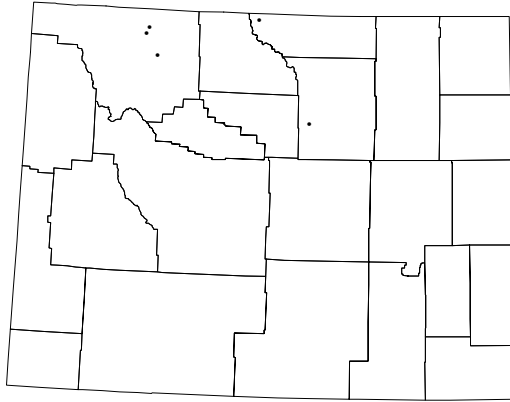
Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 6 extant occurrences and one vague, historical record. Three occurrences have been discovered or relocated since 1989 (most recently in 1997).

Abundance: Not known. Most populations appear to be small and restricted to specialized microsites.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: Two populations are found within proposed or potential Research Natural Areas on Bald Ridge (Shoshone NF) and Mann Creek (Bighorn NF). One colony may occur in TNC's Heart Mountain Preserve. All other known occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Not known, but small population size and specialized habitat requirements may make this species vulnerable to large scale disturbances.



Wyoming distribution of *Eritrichium howardii*.

Managed Areas: Known populations are found on lands managed by Bighorn and Shoshone National Forests and the BLM Buffalo and Cody Field Offices.

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