**GALIUM COLORADOENSE**  
**COLORADO BEDSTRAW**  
Family: Rubiaceae

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

**Heritage Rank:**  
Global: G4  
State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral  
(Medium Wyoming Significance)

**Description:** Colorado bedstraw is a perennial herb with numerous, 4-angled stems up to 4 dm tall, arising from a woody base. Leaves are opposite (appearing whorled due to the presence of leaf-like stipules), 0.5-2 cm long and at least 5 times as long as wide, glabrous or only sparsely hairy, and with a tiny point at each tip. Flowers are unisexual (the male and female flowers on separate plants), borne in small clusters at the tips of branches, each flower with 4 small greenish-yellow petals 1-2 mm long. The 2-lobed fruit is densely covered with whitish bristles 1.5-2.5 mm long (Cronquist et al. 1984).

**Synonyms:** *Galium multiflorum* var. *coloradoense*

**Similar Species:** *Galium boreale* has blunt leaf tips, bisexual flowers in dense clusters, and the fruits are short-hairy (hairs less than 1 mm long) (Dorn 2001, Cronquist et al. 1984).

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

**Distribution:** Utah and Arizona, east to Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico (Welsh 1993). In Wyoming, it is restricted to the Washakie Basin and Rock Springs Uplift in Sweetwater County.

**Habitat:** Found in warm desert shrub, shadscale, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper communities (Welsh et al. 1993). In Wyoming, it is known mostly from rocky sagebrush slopes and Utah juniper woodlands on sandstone ridges at 6400-7600 feet.

**Occurrences in Wyoming:** Known from 5 extant occurrences in Wyoming, all observed since 1970 (with 3 being discovered or relocated since 1991).

**Abundance:** Not known, but probably small.

**Trends:** Unknown.

**Protection status:** One occurrence is in the Red Creek ACEC. All other known populations are on public land managed for multiple use.

**Threats:** Disturbances associated with oil and gas development may be a threat.

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


Author: Stuart Markow and Walter Fertig
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