

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

LESQUERELLA FREMONTII
FREMONT BLADDERPOD
Family: Brassicaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None (formerly a C2 candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act).

Agency Status: USFS Region 2: Sensitive;
Wyoming BLM: Sensitive

Heritage Rank:

Global: G2 State: S2

WYNDD Plant List: state endemic (high conservation priority)

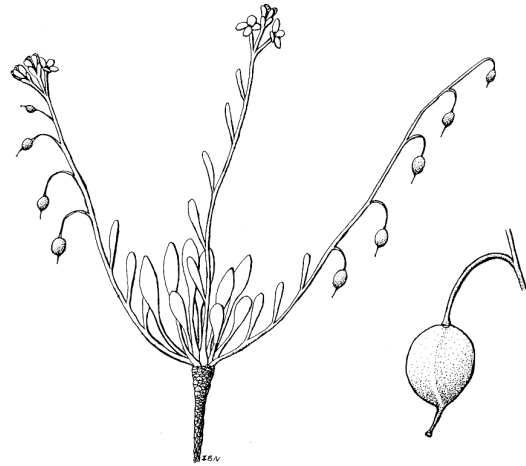
Description: Fremont bladderpod is a pubescent, perennial, taprooted herb with decumbent stems 5-15 cm long. Basal leaves are 1.5-4 cm long, elliptic to diamond-shaped and covered by star-like (stellate) hairs, while the stem leaves are generally longer and narrower. Flowers are 6-8 mm long with 4 yellow petals. Fruits are elliptical, 4-7 mm long, and inflated or slightly flattened at a right angle to the partition (the line separating the two halves of the fruit). At maturity, the fruits are borne on recurved stalks. The walls of the fruit are pubescent on both the outer and inner surfaces (Rollins and Shaw 1973; Clark and Dorn 1979; Rollins 1993; Fertig et al. 1994; Fertig 1995).

Similar Species: *Lesquerella macrocarpa* has inflated fruits that are sparsely hairy on the outer wall and glabrous on the inner surface. *L. carinata* and *L. paysonii* differ in having more strongly flattened fruits.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May-July.

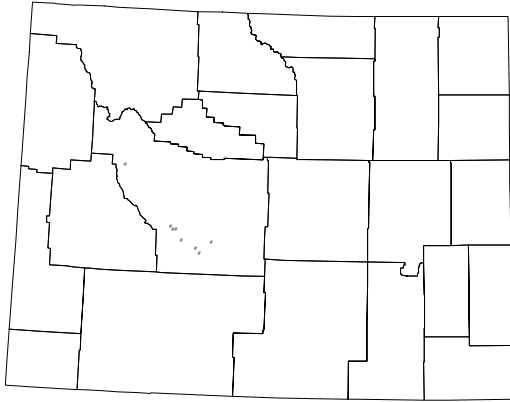


Above: *Lesquerella fremontii* by Stephanie Mills.
Below: *L. fremontii* by Isobel Nichols.



Distribution: Local endemic of the east slope of the Wind River Range and Sweetwater Plateau in Fremont County.

Habitat: Meadows, slopes, ridges, and benches in cushion plant communities on rocky, mesic, limestone derived soils. Common associates include *Artemisia tripartita*, *Balsamorhiza incana*, *Lomatium cous*, *Phlox hoodii*, *P. multiflora*, and *Townsendia spathulata*. Occurs primarily in



Above: Wyoming distribution of *L. fremontii*.

arid foothills and desert ridges, but may also occasionally occur in cushion plant communities near timberline (6800-11100 feet).

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 9 extant occurrences, 6 of which have been discovered or relocated since 1993 (most recently in 1999).

Abundance: The total known range of the species is just over 200 acres. Total population size was estimated at 40,000-50,000 individuals by Fertig in 1994. Three additional, medium to large populations have since been discovered, suggesting that the total population size may be closer to 50,000-60,000.

Trends: Probably stable. Some colonies have been lost due to road expansion and possibly due to limestone quarrying.

Protection Status: Part of the large Limestone Mountain occurrence is found within TNC's Red Canyon Ranch preserve. One other colony is protected in the Fitzpatrick Wilderness Area (within the potential Arrow Mountain RNA).

Threats: Potentially threatened by limestone quarrying and road construction.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by the BLM Lander Field Office and Shoshone National Forest.

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