

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

LESQUERELLA MULTICEPS
WESTERN BLADDERPOD
Family: Brassicaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: WY BLM Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3 State: S1

Range Context: Regional Endemic/ edge
Wyoming Contribution Rank: Medium

Description: Western bladderpod is a low-growing, caespitose perennial herb 2-25 cm tall and densely pubescent with tiny star-like hairs imparting a grayish cast. Leaf blades are elliptic to ovate, 2-4 cm long, and gradually narrowed to slender petioles. Flowers are small (5-10 mm long) and yellow. Fruits are 3.5-5 mm long, dry, globose, with appressed hairs and a prominent style. They are elevated on s-shaped pedicels 3-10 mm long, on fruiting stalks that are sprawling, elongated, and can be many-headed (Welsh et al. 2003, Rollins 1993, Mancuso 2003, Mancuso and Heidel 2008).

Synonyms: *Physaria multiceps* (Maguire) O'Kane and Al-Shehbaz

Similar Species: *Lesquerella prostrata* has leaf blades that are rhombic or deltoid in outline and abruptly narrowed to the petiole; and the fruit is slightly longer than wide; not globose (spherical). *L. alpina* var. *alpina* has narrow, linear leaves and elongate, non-globose fruits. *L. macrocarpa* has fruits on recurved pedicels. All other Wyoming species of *Lesquerella* have either flattened fruits or recurved pedicels (Rollins 1993, Dorn 2001).



Above: *Lesquerella multiceps*. By B. Heidel.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers May-June, fruits present late June-August.

Distribution: Regional endemic of northeastern Utah, southeastern Idaho, and western Wyoming (Welsh et al. 2003). In Wyoming, it is known only from the Snake River Range in Lincoln County.

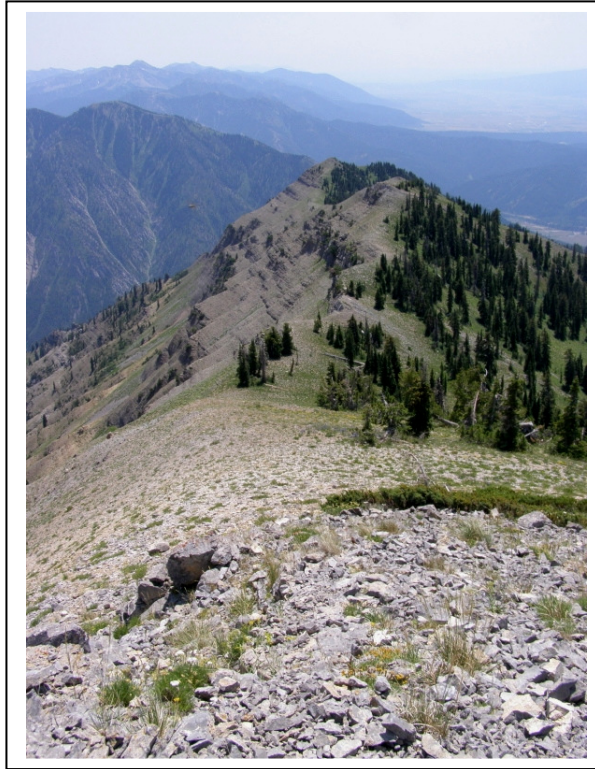
Habitat: Rock outcrops, talus, and dry rocky soils on open ridges and slopes or in woodland openings between 7800 - 9500 ft, generally on calcareous substrates (Mancuso 2003, Holmgren 2005, Mancuso and Heidel 2008). Commonly associated species include *Elymus spicatus*, *Bupleurum americanum*, *Sedum debile*, *Leucopoa kingii*, *Linum lewisii*, *Penstemon procerus*, and *Eremogone congesta*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from one extant record (most recently surveyed in 2007).

Abundance: Population numbers approach or exceed 10,000 plants.

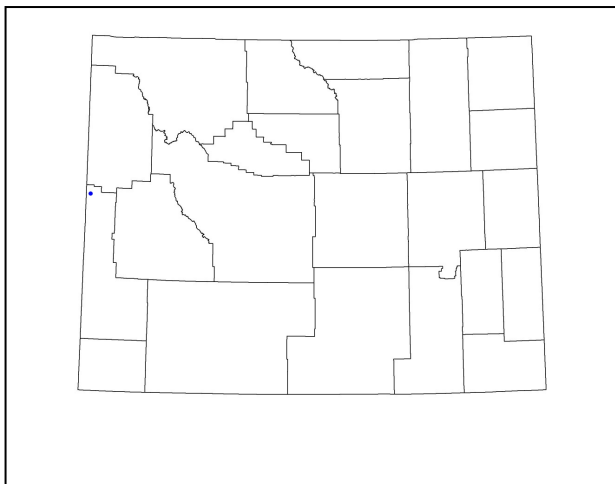
Trends: Unknown.

Protection status: On public lands managed for multiple use.



Above: *Lesquerella multiceps* habitat, by B. Heidel

Threats: Habitat could be impacted by tower construction, or any activities that promoted annual species encroachment.



Wyoming distribution of *Lesquerella multiceps*.

Managed Areas: Found in Targhee National Forest.

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