LESQUERELLA PAYSONII
PAYSON'S BLADDERPOD
Family: Brassicaceae

Status:
US Fish & Wildlife Service: None (Former C2 candidate under the Endangered Species Act)
Agency Status: USFS Region 4 Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:
Global: G3  State: S3
Range Context: Regional Endemic/ Core
Wyoming Contribution Rank: High (Watch list)

Description: Payson's bladderpod is a densely pubescent perennial herb with decumbent stems 5-15 cm long from an unbranched caudex. Basal leaves are silvery-hairy with elliptic to triangular blades and short petioles. Stem leaves are shorter, with nearly sessile elliptic blades. Flowers have 4 yellow petals 8-10 mm long. The pubescent, elliptic fruits are borne on S-curved stalks and are slightly flattened at a right angle to the partition separating the two halves of the fruit (the margins and face of the fruit are rounded, rather than sharp-pointed from a raised keel). The styles in fruit are 2-4 mm long (Rollins 1950, 1993; Rollins and Shaw 1973; Fertig et al. 1994).

Synonyms: Physaria carinata (Rollins) O’Kane and Al-Shehbaz ssp. paysonii (Rollins) O’Kane

Similar Species: Lesquerella carinata has strongly flattened fruits with keeled margins and faces. L. fremontii has recurved fruit stalks and smaller flowers and styles. Other Lesquerella spp. in Wyoming differ in having inflated fruit pods (Fertig et al. 1994).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowering occurs from mid-April to late June. Fruits are produced from late June to late August.

Distribution: Regional endemic of west-central Wyoming, eastern Idaho, and southwestern Montana. In Wyoming this species is found in the Gros Ventre, Salt River, Snake River, Teton, Wind River, and Wyoming ranges, the northern Green River.
Basin, and Jackson Hole in Lincoln, Sublette, and Teton counties. Scott (1997) also reports populations from the east slope of the Wind River Range in Fremont County, but these may represent *L. fremontii*

**Habitat:** Payson's bladderpod is found primarily on windswept, gravelly, calcareous ridgecrests, semi-open slopes, and rocky floodplains. These populations are often associated with *Artemisia tridentata* var. *vaseyana* grassland communities with total vegetative cover between 25-50%. Populations also occur on talus slopes, disturbed roadsides, dried stream channels, rocky clearings within conifer forests, and travertine outcrops at 5500-10,600 feet (Fertig 1997).

**Occurrences in Wyoming:** Known from 35 extant occurrences and 5 historical records in Wyoming. 25 populations have been discovered or relocated since 1990.

**Abundance:** Censused populations range in size from 10-1500 individuals in areas between 1-30 acres. Total population is conservatively estimated at 20,000 individuals (Fertig 1997).

**Trends:** Trend data are lacking for nearly all occurrences, but at least 3 are known to have persisted since the 1920s. Short-term observations suggest that population size may change notably from year to year based on climatic conditions (Fertig 1997).

**Protection status:** Thirteen occurrences are found within the Gros Ventre Wilderness Area, Grand Teton National Park, Kendall Warm Springs Special Interest Area, and Afton Front Research Natural Area. Three other occurrences are found just outside of other RNAs and SIAs on Bridger-Teton National Forest.

**Threats:** Impacts from recreation (hiking and off-road vehicles), ski development, grazing, and mining are potential threats in lower elevation populations. Overall, however, threats are low to most occurrences.

**Managed Areas:** Occurs on lands managed by Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton and Targhee National Forests, and the BLM Pinedale Field Office.

**References:**


Schassberger, L.A. Status review of Lesquerella carinata and L. paysonii; USDA Forest Service-Region 1; Deerlodge National Forest, Montana. Prepared by the Montana Natural Heritage Program, Montana State Library.


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