

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

LINANTHUS WATSONII
[*LEPTODACTYLON WATSONII*]
WATSON'S PRICKLY-PHLOX
Family: Polemoniaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral.

Description: Watson's prickly-phlox is a loosely matted, sprawling, or pendulous subshrub under 10 cm tall. Stems and leaves are often conspicuously glandular. Leaves are opposite, 6-15 mm long, and deeply palmately cleft into 3-9 rigid, linear, spine-tipped segments. Flowers typically have a 6-lobed calyx 7-12 mm long and a 6-lobed white to cream corolla 15-28 mm long (lobes 7-15 mm long). Flowers open at night and are loosely folded to coiled during the day. Anthers are attached near the mouth of the corolla tube. Fruits are 4-loculed capsules (Cronquist et al. 1984; Dorn 1992; Welsh et al. 1993).

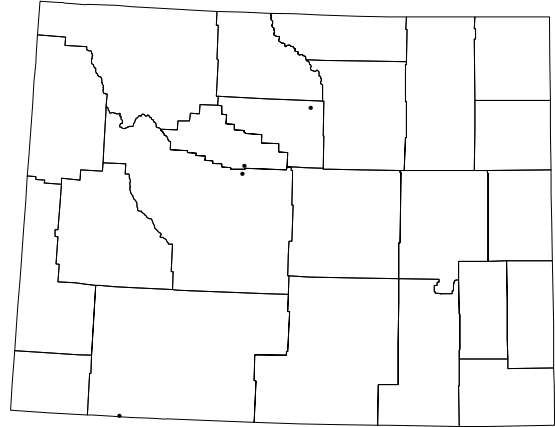
Synonyms: *Leptodactylon watsonii*

Similar Species: *Linanthus ungens* is an upright shrub with a 5-lobed calyx and corolla. *L. caespitosum* forms dense mats and has a 4-lobed calyx and corolla. *Leptosiphon nuttallii* is woody only at the base and has soft leaf blades without sharp spine-tips.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May-July.

Distribution: Idaho to NC Wyoming south to Nevada, Utah, and Colorado. In Wyoming, it is known from Wind River Canyon, Flaming

Gorge, and the Bighorn Range in Fremont, Hot Springs, Sweetwater, and Washakie counties.



Wyoming distribution of *Leptodactylon watsonii*.

Habitat: Dry ledges and crevices in steep sandstone, limestone, or dolomite cliffs at 4600-6100 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 occurrences in Wyoming, all of which have been relocated or discovered since 1984 (3 have been observed since 1991, most recently in 1997).

Abundance: Known populations are all very small (often fewer than 10 plants) and often quite restricted to specialized microsites.

Trends: Populations may be stable, but trends are not well established.

Protection status: One small colony is found in the potential Tensleep Canyon Research Natural Area on Bighorn National Forest. All other known occurrences in the state are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Threats appear to be minimal at known sites due to the ruggedness of the plant's habitat.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Bighorn National Forest, Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area (Ashley NF), BLM Cody Field Office and Wind River Indian Reservation.

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