

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

LOMATIUM ATTENUATUM
ABSAROKA BISCUITROOT
Family: Apiaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service:

Agency Status: None (formerly a C2 candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act).

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3 State: S2

WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic (medium conservation priority)

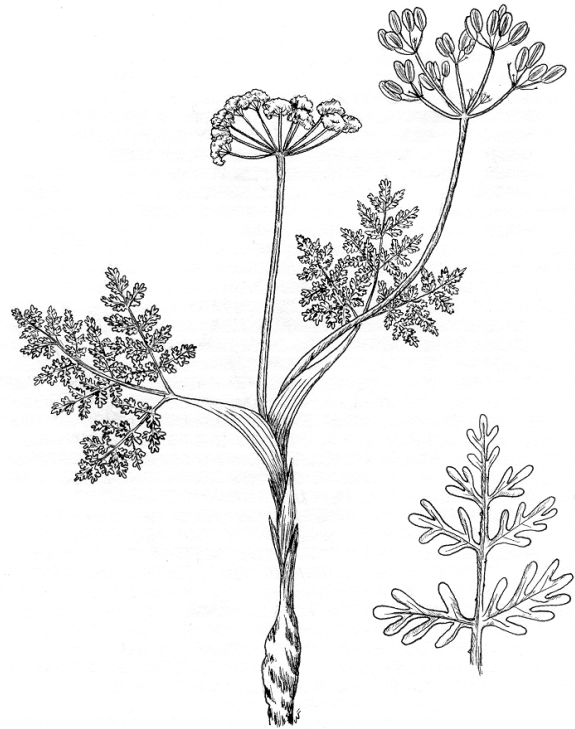
Description: Absaroka biscuitroot is a taprooted perennial herb 10-25 cm high with 1 or 2 stem leaves. The leaves are up to 11 cm long and 10 cm wide, rough from short stiff hairs, and are elliptic in outline but divided pinnately 3-times into narrow leaflets. The foliage has a distinct celery odor when crushed. Many minute yellow flowers with 5 petals are borne in a flat-topped tight cluster with 0-6 inconspicuous linear bracts at the base (involucel). Flower clusters are arranged at the ends of 5-8 stalks in an umbrella-like inflorescence (umbel). Fruits are 5-8 mm long and 3-5 mm wide, oblong-elliptic, glossy, and have two narrow wings (Marriott 1988; Heidel and Vanderhorst 1996).

Similar Species: *Lomatium cous* has flower cluster bracts (involucel) that are elliptic and often connected. The leaves of *Cymopterus terebinthinus* smell like anise when crushed (Marriott 1988).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers mid-May-June. Fruits June-July.

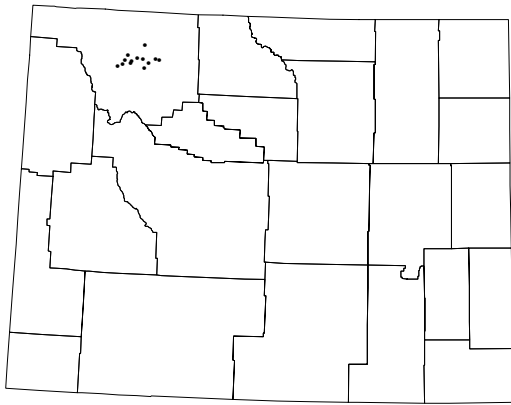


Above and below: *Lomatium attenuatum* by Walter Fertig.



Distribution: A regional endemic of the Absaroka Mountains of northwestern Wyoming (Park County) and the Tendoy Mountains of southwestern Montana.

Habitat: On volcanic or limestone derived soil or scree, in sagebrush-grassland, grassland, open Douglas-fir, and riparian creek bottom communities with little herbaceous vegetation. Slopes are usually steep and south-facing. Elevation 5,200-10,800 feet.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *L. attenuatum*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 13 occurrences, all of which have been discovered or relocated since 1987. Prior to 1995, 28 records were recognized, many of which have since been combined due to their proximity (Fertig 1997).

Abundance: Dorn (1989) estimated the entire population in the North Fork Shoshone River drainage to be ca 4000 plants in 185 acres of habitat. Surveys of 4 colonies by Fertig in 1996 suggest that Dorn's figures are probably conservative. Total numbers are probably closer to 10,000 plants.

Trends: Trend data are mostly lacking, but the rugged nature of the plants habitat and low threats suggest that it is probably stable at present.

Protection Status: Parts of four occurrences are protected within the North Absaroka Wilderness Area. Populations also occur in

the potential Grizzly Creek RNA and just outside the potential Pat O'Hara Mountain and Sheep Mesa RNAs. Other populations are found on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Threats are lacking or minimal due to the rugged nature of its habitat. Grazing is probably not a threat due to the lack of forage at most sites occupied by this species. Some low elevation sites may be impacted by road and trail development.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Shoshone National Forest and the BLM Cody Field Office.

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