

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

PALAFOXIA ROSEA VAR. *MACROLEPIS*
ROSY PALAFOXIA
Family: Asteraceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T3T4 State: S1

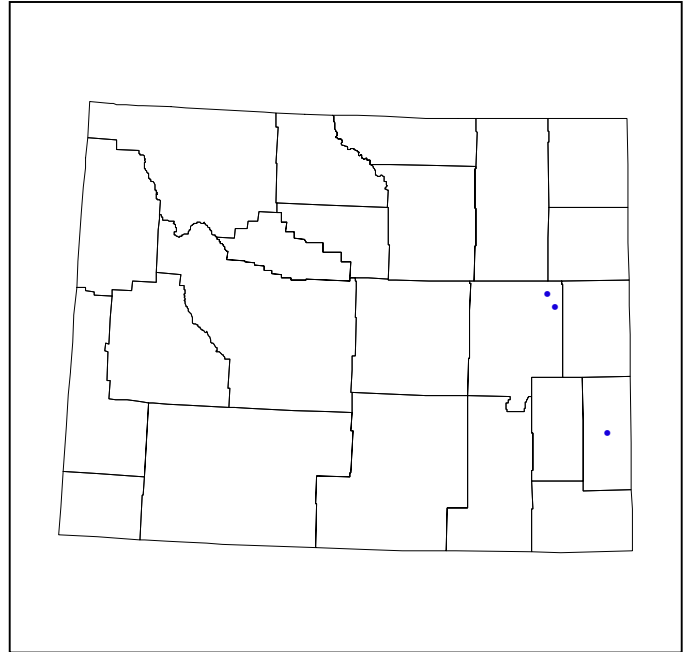
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct (Medium conservation priority)

Description: Rosy palafoxia is a taprooted annual herb with stems 10-50 cm tall. Leaves are opposite below, but become alternate higher up the stem and have simple, linear to lance-shaped blades 3-6 cm long x 2-6 mm wide. Flower heads are arranged in an open, terminal, corymb-like cluster. Involucre bracts occur in 2 rows and are linear and 7-10 mm long. Disk corollas are rose to pinkish (ray flowers are absent). Fruits are pubescent achenes 5-8 mm long crowned with a pappus of 8 long-pointed scales 3-8 mm long (Great Plains Flora Association 1986; Turner and Morris 1976).

Similar Species: *Chaenactis stevioides* has pinnately dissected leaves.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-September.

Distribution: Occurs in the southwest Great Plains from western Oklahoma and southern Texas to New Mexico, with disjunct populations in Kansas and eastern Wyoming. In Wyoming, this species is known from the Eastern Plains in Converse and Goshen counties.



Wyoming distribution of *Palafoxia rosea* var. *macrolepis*.

Habitat: Rangelike, this species is found on sandy soils in plains (Turner and Morris 1976). Wyoming populations occur in sandy sagebrush and mixed-grass prairie communities on knolls and slopes at 4100-4860 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from at least 4 extant occurrences in Wyoming (last observed in 1996).

Abundance: Unknown.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: One occurrence is found in the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Rawhide Unit. All other populations are known from lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Populations could be impacted by road building, mineral exploration, and competition from introduced weeds.

Managed Areas: Populations are found on the Rawhide Wildlife Habitat Management Area and Thunder Basin National Grasslands.

References:

Dorn, R.D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, second edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Great Plains Flora Association. 1986. Flora of the Great Plains. Univ. Kansas Press, Lawrence, KS.

Turner, B. L. and M. I. Morris. 1976. Systematics of *Palafoxia* (Asteraceae: Helenieae). *Rhodora* 78: 567-628.

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