

PARNASSIA KOTZEBUEI
KOTZEBUE'S GRASS-OF-PARNASSUS
Family: Saxifragaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None
Agency Status: USFS R2 Sensitive

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S2
Range Context: Widespread/Edge
Wyoming Contribution Rank: Low

Description: Kotzebue's grass-of-Parnassus is a perennial herb with usually a single stem growing to 12 cm tall. The leaves are in a basal rosette, pointed and ovate to nearly elliptic with blades 0.5-2.0 cm long and petioles equaling or much longer than the blades. The inflorescence is a single, terminal flower, on a naked stem or with a single bract close to the base. The 5 petals are white, smooth-margined, approximately 7 mm long, and are 1-3 veined. Sepals are up to 7 mm long with 3 nerves and are slightly (1-4 mm) attached to the ovary. The capsule is up to 1 cm long (Hitchcock and Cronquist 1961, Dorn 2001).

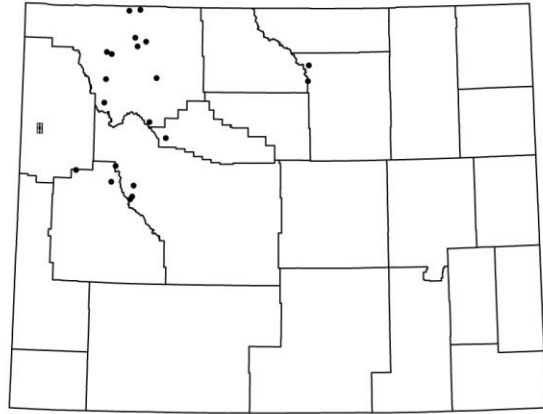
Similar Species: *Parnassia fimbriata* has petals that are fringed below the middle. *Parnassia palustris* var. *montanensis* and *P. parviflora* have a single bract above the base and petals with 5-13 nerves.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-September.

Distribution: Siberia and Alaska and across Canada to Greenland, south in the Rocky Mountains to Colorado, the Ruby Mountains in Nevada, and the Cascades to Washington. In Wyoming it is found in the mountains of

Park, Teton, Fremont, Hot Springs, Johnson, and Sublette counties.

Habitat: On wet cliffs and alpine slopes at 8,100-12,000 feet. Plants usually occur on very barren, steep slopes with little competition from other vegetation.



Wyoming distribution of *Parnassia kotzebuei*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Twenty-two occurrences are currently recognized, 20 of which have been observed since 1979.

Abundance: One occurrence was reported as "rare", other occurrences lack abundance information. Individual populations are often exceedingly small and restricted to areas of suitable micro-habitat.

Trends: Population size may vary from year to year based on moisture availability, but long-term trends have not been studied.

Protection Status: At least 5 occurrences are protected within the wilderness areas and one is in Grand Teton National Park.

Threats: Most populations are unthreatened due to the ruggedness of their habitat. Populations near trails may be impacted by recreational activities. May be vulnerable to changes in the hydrology of its wetland habitat.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by the Shoshone, Bighorn, and Bridger-Teton national forests and Grand Teton National Park.

References:

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