

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*PARRYA NUDICAULIS*  
NAKED-STEMMED PARRYA  
Family: Brassicaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.  
Agency Status: USFS Region 2 Sensitive;  
USFS Region 4 Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S2  
WYND D Plant List: Disjunct (Low  
conservation priority)

Description: Naked-stemmed parrya is a glandular, perennial herb with stems up to 20 cm high. The stout, woody rootstalk is branched and covered by old leaf bases. Leaves are mostly basal and have oblanceolate, entire to coarsely toothed, stalked blades 5-25 mm wide. The flowers have four pink to lavender (sometimes white) petals and four purple glandular or glabrous sepals, and are arranged in a raceme. The oblong, flattened fruits are usually over 2 cm long and constricted between the seeds (torulose) (Welsh 1979; Fertig 1994; Fertig et al. 1994; Fertig 1995).

Synonyms: Wyoming plants may be the same as *Parrya rydbergii*, an “endemic” of the Uinta Mountains in Utah.

Similar Species: The fruits of *Parrya* superficially resemble pea pods, but can be distinguished by the presence of an internal dividing membrane (replum). Utah plants have been referred to *Parrya rydbergii* by Welsh et al. (1987). Wyoming material appears to be nearly identical with specimens from Utah.



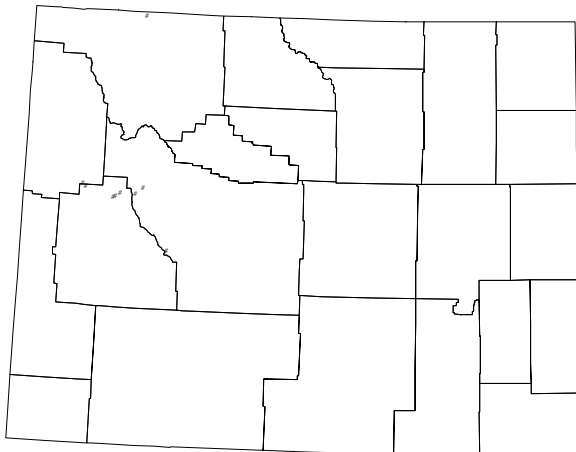
Above: *Parrya nudicaulis* in flower by Walter Fertig.  
Below: *P. nudicaulis* by Kaye Thorne.



Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Siberia to Alaska and northern Canada. Disjunct in the Uinta Mountains in Utah and the Wind River, Gros Ventre, and Beartooth Ranges in Wyoming (Fremont, Park, Sublette, and Teton counties).

Habitat: Typically found on steep, unconsolidated talus slopes of gray limestone or pinkish sandstone in the alpine or upper subalpine zones. These sites usually have very low vegetative cover (less than 25%) and are inhabited mostly by low cushion plants and alpine willow species. Occasionally, colonies can be found on moist grassy hummocks on low saddles. Elevation 9600-12240 feet.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *P. nudicaulis*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Currently known from 8 extant occurrences (all observed or discovered since 1990), and one older record (from 1965).

Abundance: Population data are available from only 4 occurrences, but these figures suggest that the species numbers at least 100,000 individuals in Wyoming in over 450 acres of habitat.

Trends: Until recently, this species was thought to be much less common than surveys in 1994 indicated. These higher numbers are probably due to better sampling rather than a recent population increase.

Protection Status: All known occurrences are found within designated Wilderness Areas (Bridger, Absaroka-Beartooth, Popo Agie, Gros Ventre, and Fitzpatrick). One population also occurs within the proposed Osborn Mountain Research Natural Area, and two others occur in the potential Beartooth Butte and Arrow Mountain RNAs.

Threats: Habitat is adequately protected by management policy and rough terrain.

Managed Areas: Known occurrences are found on lands managed by Bridger-Teton National Forest and Shoshone National Forest.

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