

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

PEDICULARIS PULCHELLA
MOUNTAIN LOUSEWORT
Family: Scrophulariaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3 State: S2

WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic
(Medium conservation priority)

Description: Mountain lousewort is a low-growing, densely hairy perennial herb with stems mostly less than 1 dm tall. Basal leaves are twice-divided and fern-like, 2-5 cm long, and less than 1 cm wide. Stem leaves are few and smaller than the basal ones. The inflorescence is a short, terminal spike, with a leaf-like bract at the base of each flower. Flowers are purple, with the petals united into a two-lipped structure, resembling a snapdragon (Hitchcock et al. 1959, Dorn, 1992).

Similar Species: *Pedicularis oederi* has yellow or cream-colored flowers. *P. cystopteridifolia* has stems mostly over 1 dm tall, with floral bracts that are morphologically different from the leaves. *P. parryi* has essentially leafless stems and flowers tapering to a short, narrow beak (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Regional endemic of southwestern Montana and northwestern Wyoming. In Wyoming it is known to the Bighorn, Beartooth, Absaroka, Gros Ventre, and northern Wind River ranges in Big Horn,

Above: *Pedicularis pulchella* by Stephanie Mills.

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

Habitat: Alpine meadows dominated by *Geum rossii* turf and talus/scree slopes of granitic or calcareous parent material at 10300-12460 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 14 extant occurrences, 8 of which have been relocated or discovered since 1989 (most recently in 1998).

Abundance: Population data are lacking for most occurrences, but the total range of the species is small.

Trends: Not known, but thought to be stable.

Protection status: Twelve of the 14 known occurrences are found in the Gros Ventre, Washakie, and Cloud Peak Wilderness Areas.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by the Bighorn, Bridger-Teton, and Shoshone National Forests.