

*PENSTEMON CYATHOPHORUS*  
NORTH PARK BEARDTONGUE  
Family: Scrophulariaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3G4 State: S1S2

WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic  
(Medium conservation priority)

Description: North Park beardtongue is a glabrous perennial herb with stems 20-60 cm tall. Basal leaves are spoon-shaped or oblanceolate, fleshy, glaucous, and 1-2 cm wide and 2-6 cm long. Stem leaves are opposite, sessile, ovate, and glaucous and only gradually diminish in size higher up the stem. Flowers are arranged in whorls in an elongate, terminal inflorescence with oval, toothed-margined bracts. Flowers have a sharp-pointed, glabrous calyx 4-7 mm long, pink to pale purple tubular corolla 9-15 mm long, and exserted stamens (stamens extend beyond the lip of the corolla) with glabrous anthers (Harrington 1954; Dorn 1992; Spackman et al. 1997; Cronquist et al. 1984).

Similar Species: *Penstemon pachyphyllus* var. *mucronatus* has smooth-margined, ovate upper bracts and blue flowers without exserted stamens.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Late May-June.

Distribution: Regional endemic of north-central Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. In Wyoming, known from the



Above: *Penstemon cyathophorus* by Robin Corcoran  
(Spackman et al. 1997).

Sierra Madre and North Platte River Valley  
in Carbon County.



Above: *Penstemon cyathophorus* by G. Beauvais.

Habitat: Occurs on rocky, clay-loam soils in *Artemisia nova* or *A. tridentata* grasslands on montane slopes and terraces at 7600-9000 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 8 extant occurrences (last observed in 2000) and 1 vague, historical record in Wyoming. Formerly reported from 2 additional locations in Sweetwater County, but these were based on misidentified specimens of *Penstemon pachyphyllus*.

Abundance: Not known. Reports from specimen labels suggest that populations may be "local" or "occasional" to "frequent" or "common". Counting plants can be difficult once the distinctive flowers have dropped.

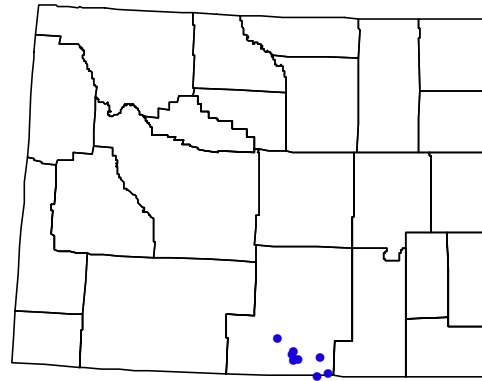
Trends: Not known.

Protection status: Two occurrences are found in conservation easements maintained

by The Nature Conservancy's Wyoming Field Office. All other known occurrences are found on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be threatened by over-collection. Impacts from livestock grazing and vehicles are unknown.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Medicine Bow National Forest and the BLM Rawlins Field Office.



Wyoming distribution of *Penstemon cyathophorus*.

References:

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Harrington, H. D. 1954. Manual of the Plants of Colorado. Sage Books, Chicago, IL.

Spackman, S., B. Jennings, J. Coles, C. Dawson, M. Minton, A. Kratz, and C. Spurrier. 1997. Colorado Rare Plant Field Guide. Prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Ft. Collins, CO.

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