

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

PENSTEMON SCARIOSUS VAR
GARRETTII
GARRETT'S BEARDTONGUE
SCROPHULARIACEAE

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4T3 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Regional
endemic (Medium conservation priority)

Description: Garrett's beardtongue is a glabrous perennial forb with few to several erect stems 15-50 cm tall from a woody crown. Basal leaves are lance-shaped, entire, 5-17 cm long, 6-15 mm wide, and persist at flowering time. Upper stem leaves are shorter. The inflorescence consists of 3-6 whorls of flowers and bracts and is glandular. Sepals are 3-8 mm long, ovate, glandular to rarely glabrous, and have scarious and erose margins. The corolla is 15-25 mm long, blue, and glabrous. Anther sacs are long hairy on the back, 1.3-1.7 mm long, and open their entire length. Fruiting capsules are 7-10 mm long (Cronquist et al. 1984; Welsh et al. 1993).

Identification Comments: Flowers, anthers, and leaves needed for identification.

Similar Species: *Penstemon paysoniorum* typically has a glabrous inflorescence, shorter stems and narrower leaves. *P. cyaneus* has short-hairy anther sacs that open only 4/5 of their length. *P. scariosus* var *albifluvis* (an endemic of Utah and Colorado) has anther sacs over 1.8 mm long,

light blue to lavender corollas, and basal leaves that wither at flowering time. Welsh et al. (1993) report "[var. *garrettii*] is transitional to var. *scariosus* in Duchesne County and on the Tavaputs Plateau".

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-July.

Distribution: Regional endemic of northeastern Utah and southwestern Wyoming. In Wyoming, known from the Green River Basin and northern foothills of the Uinta Range in Sweetwater and Uinta counties.

Habitat: Occurs in sagebrush, shadscale, oak-maple scrub, Douglas-fir, Rocky Mountain juniper, ponderosa pine, and aspen communities in Utah (Welsh et al. 1993). Wyoming populations are found in rolling semi-barren badlands on clay soils, openings within *Artemisia tridentata* var. *vaseyana*/*Purshia tridentata* or *A. tridentata*/*Cercocarpus montanus*/*Amelanchier alnifolia*/*Poa cusickii* communities on gentle clay slopes covered with small slate fragments, or on steep clay or talus slopes covered with brown to bluish-gray slate chips below steep cliffs 7600-8400 feet.

Associated Rare Species: *Cirsium aridum*, *Cirsium ownbeyi*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 occurrences in Wyoming, all discovered since 1995 (most recently observed in 1999).

Abundance: At least 2 occurrences are locally abundant, numbering in the low thousands and occupying at least 40 acres of habitat.

Trends: Not known, but probably stable.

Protection status: Two populations are found in the Currant Creek and Red Creek Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) on lands managed by the BLM Rock Springs Field Office. A third occurrence is on a state section within the BLM's Sage Creek ACEC. The other known population is on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Occurs in a habitat being developed for natural gas. May be impacted by surface disturbances, road construction, vehicle trampling.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by the BLM Rock Springs Field Office.

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Wyoming State Office, Bureau of Land Management Vernal Supervisor's Office, US Fish

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