

*PHACELIA DENTICULATA*  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN PHACELIA  
HYDROPHYLLACEAE

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3? State: S2

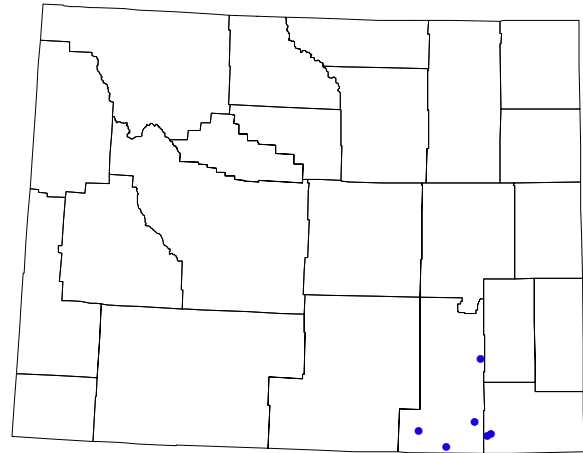
WYNDDB Plant List: Regional endemic  
(Medium Conservation priority)

Description: Rocky Mountain phacelia is an erect, mostly unbranched, annual herb with hairy and sticky-glandular stems 5-40 cm tall. The leaves are 1-7.5 cm long, glandular, and pinnately divided into irregular, coarse-toothed lobes. The inflorescence consists of 1-several partly coiled racemes, each of which uncoils as the fruits mature. Flowers have a 3.5-4.5 mm long pale blue (occasionally whitish) corolla with toothed margins. The corolla is longer than the calyx and the stamens are shorter than the corolla tube. Fruits are oval capsules about 5 mm long (Harrington 1954; Atwood 1975).

Similar Species: *Phacelia neomexicana* var. *alba* has white flowers with exserted stamens. Other annual *Phacelia* spp. from Wyoming with toothed or lobed leaves have entire-margined petals or corollas that are equal to or shorter than the calyx.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June - September.

Distribution: Regional endemic of southeastern Wyoming and central Colorado. In Wyoming the species is known from the Laramie Valley and Laramie Range in Albany and Laramie counties.



Wyoming distribution of *Phacelia denticulata*.

Habitat: Gravelly, sandy or clay banks, prairie draws and flats, rocky slopes in the mountains at 6000-7900 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 7 extant and 2 historical records in Wyoming (most recently observed in 1995).

Abundance: Few populations have been surveyed, but sites observed in 1995 were uniformly small and sparsely populated.

Trends: Some populations have probably been extirpated due to suburban growth and limestone quarrying.

Protection status: One occurrence is in Curt Gowdy State Park (a site managed mostly for recreation and water storage). All other known populations are on private or public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Some sites may be vulnerable to habitat loss from urban expansion or mineral development.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Curt Gowdy State Park, the BLM Rawlins Field Office, and Medicine Bow National Forest.

References:

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