

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

PHACELIA INCANA
WESTERN PHACELIA
Family: Hydrophyllaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3G4State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral
Medium Wyoming Significance

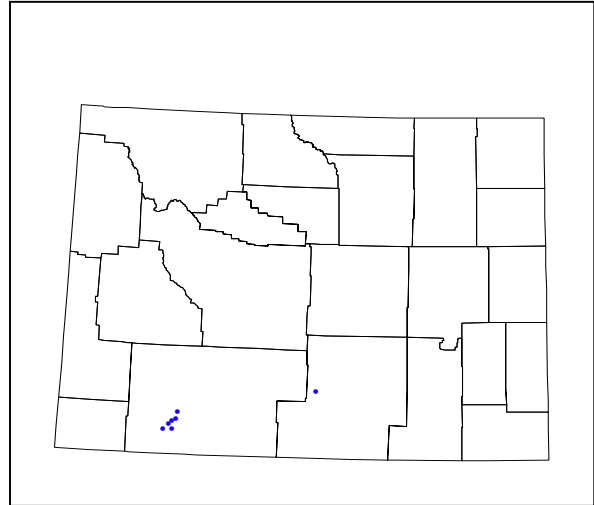
Description: Western phacelia is an annual with erect, simple or branched stems up to 10 cm tall. The leaves are entire, ovate or deltoid, alternate, and have well-developed petioles. They are covered with spreading, often gland-tipped hairs. The flowers are in sparse, narrow, 1-sided curved spikes that unwind as they mature. The white to bluish flowers have a 5-lobed tubular corolla that is scarcely longer than the calyx, made up of five spatulate sepals that are 3-4 mm long. Stamens are shorter than the corolla tube. Ovules are mostly more than 16 per ovary (Cronquist et al. 1994, Dorn 2001).

Similar Species: *Phacelia demissa* has a corolla 5-8 mm long and only 10-16 ovules per ovary. *P. tetramera* has a corolla only 1-2 mm long and usually 4-lobed.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowering in June-July.

Distribution: Occurs from eastern Nevada and central Idaho to southwestern Montana, southern Wyoming, northwestern Colorado, and western Utah. In Wyoming, known from the Green River and Great Divide basins in Carbon and Sweetwater counties.

Habitat: Reported from stony, often calcareous slopes in the sagebrush and pinyon-juniper zones by Cronquist et al. (1984). Wyoming populations are found on rocky or sandy-clay slopes amid *Juniperus osteosperma*, *Atriplex confertifolia*, *Artemisia tridentata*, *Kochia americana*, or *Cercocarpus montanus* stands at 6000-7000 feet.



Wyoming distribution of *Phacelia incana*

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 6 extant locations (5 of which have been records).

Abundance: Populations may be locally abundant, numbering in the low thousands in small areas.

Trends: Not known, but probably stable.

Protection status: One occurrence is in the BLM Sage Creek ACEC. All other known populations are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Often occur on steep, clayey slopes that be vulnerable to erosion under moderate to heavy use.

Managed Areas: Occurs on land managed by the BLM Rock Springs Field Office and Ashley National Forest (Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area). The historical Carbon County population may be on lands managed by the BLM Rawlins Field Office. Populations occur in the Little Firehole and Blacks Fork potential conservation sites.

References:

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