

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

PHACELIA SALINA
NELSON'S PHACELIA
Family: Hydrophyllaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

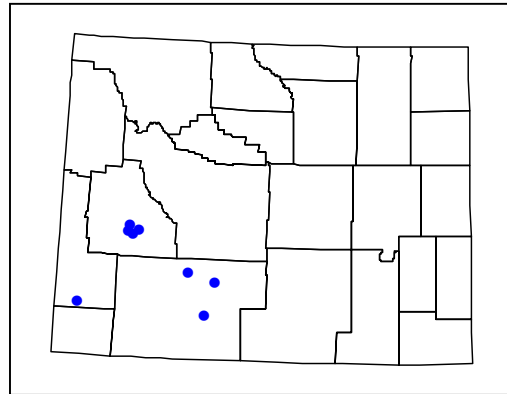
Global: G3?Q State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral

Description: Nelson's phacelia is an annual herb with 2-several prostrate or short-ascending, glandular stems 0.5-3 cm long. Leaf blades are entire, coarsely toothed, wavy-margined, or pinnately lobed, 0.5-1.5 cm long, and elliptic to oval. The leaves are wedge-shaped at the base with stalks 0.5-3 cm long and are finely pubescent with short, stiff hairs. Flowers are often borne near the ground at the base of the stems and are exceeded by the leaves. The calyx is 2-4 mm long at flowering time 4-6 mm long in fruit), and approximately equal to the corolla in size. The corolla is bright yellow (although often tinted with lavender), tubular, and 5-lobed. Stamens are shorter than the corolla tube. Styles are 0.5-1 mm long, and shorter than the calyx lobes (even in fruit). The fruit is a pubescent, pointed capsule 3-4 mm long with 7-10 ovules (Dorn 2001, Halse 1981.)

Similar Species: *Phacelia scopulina* has styles 1-2 mm long that typically exceed the calyx in fruit. *Phacelia demissa* has purple-white flowers, fewer ovules, and rounded leaves. *P. tetramera* has a 4-lobed, white or pale yellow corolla less than 2 mm long.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers and fruits from May-June.

Distribution: Regional endemic of western Utah, central and eastern Nevada and southwestern Wyoming. In Wyoming, it is known from the Green River and Great Divide basins and the foothills of the Overthrust Belt and Rock Springs Uplift in Lincoln, Sublette, and Sweetwater counties.



Wyoming distribution of *Phacelia salina*

Habitat: Occurs on alkaline flats and clay slopes. It is apparently an ephemeral annual that flowers only during seasons of high spring moisture, and persists in a seedbank during unfavorable years.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 7 recent occurrences (all observed since 1978, with 6 found since 1995) and 1 historical record in Wyoming.

Abundance: Not known. This species appears to be an ephemeral annual that probably flowers only in favorably moist years. It also appears to have a narrow ecological amplitude. The largest known surveyed population had only 75-100 plants in 1997.

Trends: Trend may be stable over the long term, but individual populations may have a cyclical "boom and bust" pattern due to the infrequency of good flowering years following wet springs.

Protection status: All known populations are on private or public lands managed for multiple use. One occurrence is found just outside the Red Lakes Wilderness Study Area.

Threats: Some populations could be vulnerable to surface disturbances by off-road vehicles.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by the BLM Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices.

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