

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

PLATANThERA ORBICULATA
ROUND-LEAVED ORCHID
Family: Orchidaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: USFS Region 2 Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5? State: S1

WYNDD Plant List:

(Medium Conservation Priority)

Description: Large round-leaved orchid is a fleshy-rooted perennial herb with flowering stems 30-60 cm high. The two basal leaves are broadly elliptic to nearly round, 8-10 cm wide, and lie prostrate on the ground. The inflorescence is a loose raceme of 5-20 whitish-green, irregular flowers. The drooping, strap-shaped lip petal has a slender, curved spur 15-22 mm long coming from the back. The fruit is an elliptical, multi-seeded capsule (Luer 1975; Van Bruggen 1985; Great Plains Flora Association 1986; Fertig 1993).

Synonyms: *Habenaria orbiculata*.

Similar Species: *Habenaria [Piperia] unalascensis* has 2-3 lance-shaped basal leaves and flower spurs 3-5 mm long. Other *Habenaria [Platanthera]* species differ in having leafy stems or fringed lip petals.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers from July-August.

Distribution: Rangelike, this species occurs from Newfoundland to southern Alaska and south to Tennessee, Minnesota, and Oregon. Disjunct populations are found in the Black

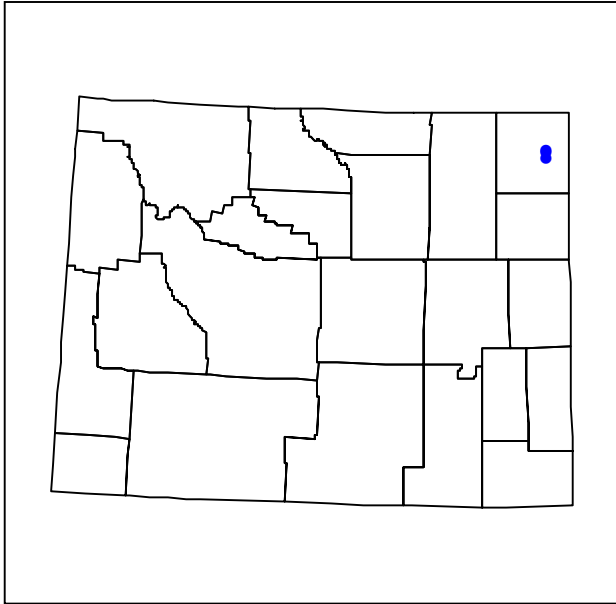
Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming (Crook County).

Habitat: Shady, north-facing slopes in paper birch, hazelnut, or spruce forests on damp, rich humus soil. Populations very small in Wyoming.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 occurrences in Wyoming, all of which have been discovered since 1997. Two populations were relocated in 2000.

Abundance: 87 plants observed at 2 sites in June 2000 by Forest Service personnel (no plants found at a third site). Only 14 plants had been documented in 1999 and 5 plants in 1997-1998. The total occupied habitat of this species is less than 2 acres.

Trends: Long term trends are not known, although population showed a large increase in 2000 from 1997-1998 numbers. This



Wyoming distribution of *Platanthera orbiculata*.

increase may be partly due to a more thorough survey effort.

Protection status: All known occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use. This species is listed as Sensitive in US Forest Service Region 2.

Threats: May be threatened by habitat loss from logging or grazing, and may be threatened by collecting.

Managed Areas: Found on Black Hills National Forest.

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