

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

POPULUS DELTOIDES VAR *WISLIZENII*
FREMONT COTTONWOOD
Family: Salicaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None

Agency Status: None

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T?State: S1

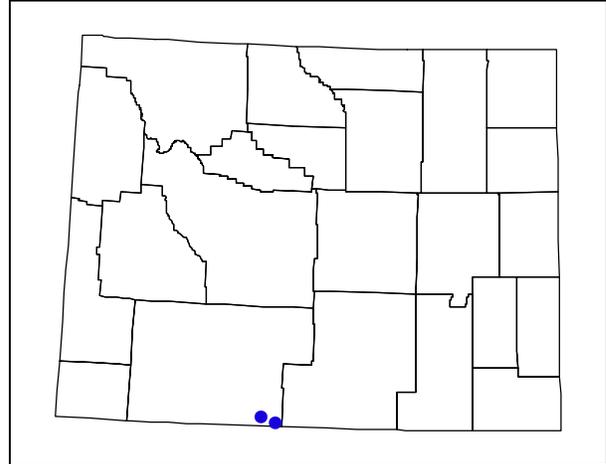
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral

(Low conservation priority)

Description: Fremont cottonwood is a tree 10-25 m tall, with a rounded crown that is often broad or broader than the tree is high. The bark is smooth and whitish on young trees and branches, becoming deeply furrowed and grayish or brownish on old trunks. The leaves are deltoid or ovate, 4-10 cm x 4.5-12 cm, with an acuminate-triangular tip 1 cm or less long, and wavy or serrated margins with glandular teeth. The leaf petioles are flattened and 3-9.5 cm long. The male flowers are in an inflorescence (ament) that is 4-10 cm long, with dark red anthers. The female flowers are in an ament that is 5-15 cm long, with capsules 7-10 mm long, ovoid to subglobose, on pedicels sometimes over 6 mm long, and with stipes 6-10 mm long at their base (Welsh et al. 1993, Dorn 1992).

Synonyms: *Populus fremontii* var. *wislizenii* (Welsh et al. 1993).

Similar Species: *Populus deltoides* var. *occidentalis* has leaves with slender acuminate tips mostly 1-2 cm long, often with a pair of glands on the base of the leaf near the petiole, and the fruiting capsules are on pedicels that are sometimes over 6 mm long.



Wyoming distribution of *P. deltoides* var. *wislizenii*

Flowering/Fruiting Period: March-May.

Distribution: Ranging from Nevada to New Mexico, and from Mexico to southern Wyoming. Wyoming populations are known from the Little Snake River and adjoining Powder Rim area of southern Carbon and Sweetwater counties.

Habitat: In Wyoming, this species occurs in floodplains and dry washes at 6100-6300 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 occurrences in Wyoming, all dating since 1987.

Abundance: The abundance is not fully known. This species may be the dominant component of a community type that barely reaches the state.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: No occurrences are found in special management areas. Two of the three known locations are on public lands.

Threats: Cottonwood ecosystems in the west in general are considered to be highly vulnerable to changes in riparian

management that affect seedling establishment and recruitment. The particular status of the Fremont cottonwood is not known.

Managed Areas: Known occurrences in Wyoming are on private or BLM lands managed by the Rawlins District (Great Divide RA).

References:

Dorn, R.D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, second edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Welsh, S.L., N.D. Atwood, S. Goodrich, and L.C. Higgins, (eds). 1993. A Utah Flora, second edition, revised. Brigham Young University Print Services, Provo, UT.

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