

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

POTAMOGETON DIVERSIFOLIUS
WATER-THREAD PONDWEED
Family: Potamogetonaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

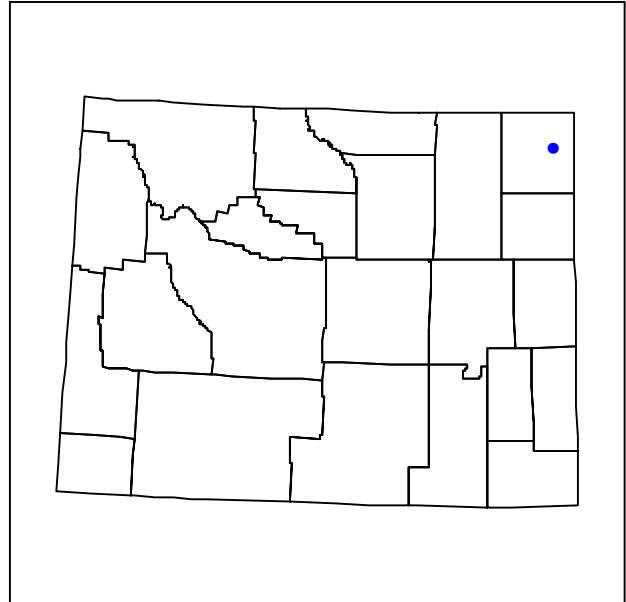
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral

(Low Conservation Priority)

Description: Water-thread pondweed is a perennial aquatic forb with slender, round, multi-branched stems 40-80 cm long. Leaves are dimorphic, with the submersed blades delicate, thread-like, 2-4 cm long, and less than 2 mm wide, and the petioled floating leaves 0.7-3 cm long with elliptic-oblong, 3-7 veined blades. Stipules of the submersed leaves are fused at the base of the leaf blade and 4-10 mm long, while those of the floating leaves are free and 15-20 mm long. Lower flowering spikes are nearly sessile to short-stalked, less than 1 cm long, and borne in the axils of submersed leaves. Upper flowering spikes are up to 1.5 cm long and borne on emergent stalks. Fruits are round, strongly flattened, olive to straw-colored achenes 1-1.5 mm wide with a slender wing or keel and minute beak (Dorn 1992; Gleason and Cronquist 1991; Hitchcock et al. 1969; Haynes and Hellquist 2000).

Similar Species: *Potamogeton natans* has floating leaves over 5 cm long with over 15 veins. Other *Potamogeton* species with dimorphic leaves in Wyoming have submersed leaf blades over 3 mm wide.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-September.



Wyoming distribution of *Potamogeton diversifolius*.

Distribution: Occurs primarily from Massachusetts to Minnesota south to Kansas, Texas, and Florida, with outlying and scattered populations in South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Arizona, and California. In Wyoming, this species is limited to the Black Hills in Crook County.

Habitat: This species is an aquatic plant found rooted in shallow ponds and marshes. Wyoming populations are found in cattail ponds and reservoirs within pine woodlands or sagebrush grassland.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 occurrences in Wyoming, all observed since 1982 (most recently in 1989).

Abundance: Not known. One population contained 50-100 plants in 1979.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known sites are on public or private lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Loss of wetland habitats.

Managed Areas: One occurrence is known from Black Hills NF (Bearlodge RD).

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