

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*POTAMOGETON FRIESII*  
FRIES PONDWEED  
Family: Potamogetonaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1

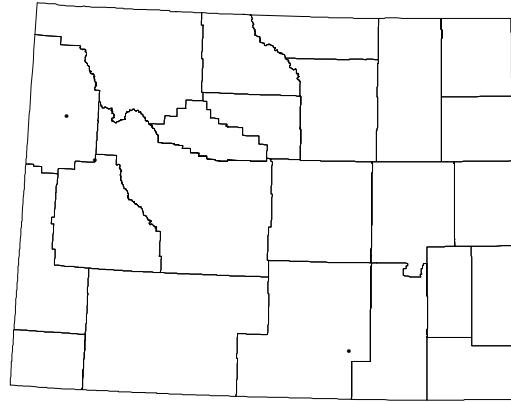
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct

(Medium conservation priority)

Description: Fries pondweed is a submerged aquatic herb with flattened stems 3-10 dm long, arising from a short rhizome. The plants are unbranched in the lower half, but become freely branched above. Leaves are all submerged and similar in appearance, mostly 3-8 cm long and 1.5-2.5 mm wide. Blades are bright green, flat, typically 5 nerved, broadly acute at the tip, and have two small, yellow glands at the base. Stipules are whitish and typically shredded into slender fibers. The inflorescence is a terminal spike consisting of 3-4 closely-spaced whorls, each with 2-3 flowers. The flowers are small and greenish and lack petals. Fruits are roughly egg-shaped, 2-2.5 mm long, and have a narrow keel (Cronquist et al. 1977; Dorn 1977, 1992).

Similar Species: *Potamogeton obtusifolius* and *P. pusillus* have membranous stipules and 3 nerved leaves. *P. strictifolius* has inrolled leaf blades 0.5-2 mm wide and achenes that lack a keel. *P. foliosus* has 3-5 nerved leaves that lack basal glands and achenes with a wavy or toothed keel (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-August.



Wyoming distribution of *Potamogeton friesii*.

Distribution: Alaska to Newfoundland, south to Washington, Utah, South Dakota, Indiana and Virginia. In Wyoming it is known from the Absaroka, Wind River, and Medicine Bow ranges and Jackson Hole in Carbon, Park, and Teton counties.

Habitat: Aquatic rooted in shallow mud in ponds, lakes and reservoirs at 6300-8860 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 extant and 2 historical records in Wyoming (most recently observed in 1990). An additional report from Teton County cited in Haynes (1974) needs to be confirmed.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: At least one occurrence is found in Grand Teton National Park. Other populations are on public lands managed for multiple use or on private lands.

Threats: May be impacted by competition from exotic weeds.

Managed Areas: Occurs in the Bridger-Teton and Medicine Bow National Forests and Grand Teton National Park.

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