

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

POTAMOGETON NODOSUS
LONGLEAF PONDWEED
Family: Potamogetonaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral
Medium Wyoming Significance

Description: Longleaf pondweed is a weak-stemmed, aquatic herb up to 2 meters long with dimorphic leaves. Submerged leaves are thin and narrow, mostly 10-20 (up to 30) cm long and 1-2 (up to 3) cm wide with long (2-10 cm) petioles. Floating leaves are leathery and broadly elliptic to oblong, 5-12 cm long and 2-4 cm wide. Flowers are borne in terminal spikes, the flower stalks thicker than the vegetative stems. Spikes are 4 cm or more in length and have up to 15 whorls of small, greenish flowers, each of which gives rise to 4 tiny, short-beaked, sharp-edged achenes (Hitchcock et al. 1969, Dorn 2001).

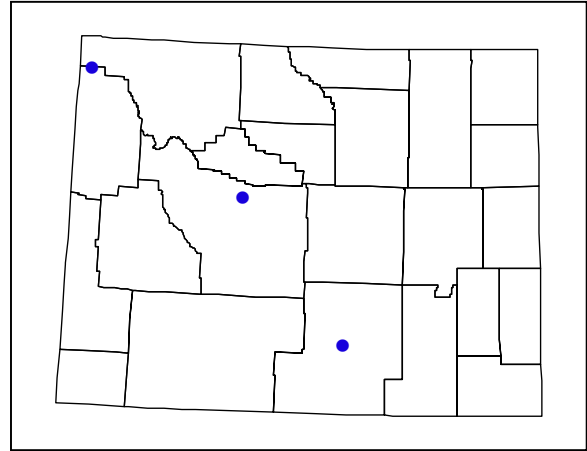
Similar Species: *Potamogeton alpinus* has leaves which are red-tinged and tapering to the stem, rather than long-petiolate, and mature spikes that are 3 cm long or less. *P. natans* and *P. epihydrus* have submerged leaves which are sessile and less than 1 cm wide. *P. gramineus* has submerged leaves which are sessile, and spikes less than 3 cm long.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June - August.

Distribution: British Columbia south to Mexico, east over most of the U.S. (Hitchcock et al. 1969). In Wyoming, known

only from the Yellowstone Plateau, North Platte River Valley, and Wind River Basin in Carbon, Fremont, and Teton counties.

Habitat: Aquatic rooted in mud along the shallow edges of slow to fast-moving rivers at 5000-7800 feet.



Wyoming distribution of *Potamogeton nodosus*

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from one extant occurrence (last observed in 1984) in Wyoming and two historical records.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: One occurrence is found in Yellowstone NP.

Threats: Not known, but may be impacted by water pollution or diversion.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Yellowstone NP, Wind River Indian Reservation, and possibly the BLM Rawlins Field Office.

References:

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