

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*POTAMOGETON PRAELONGUS*  
WHITE-STEM PONDWEED  
Family: Potamogetonaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

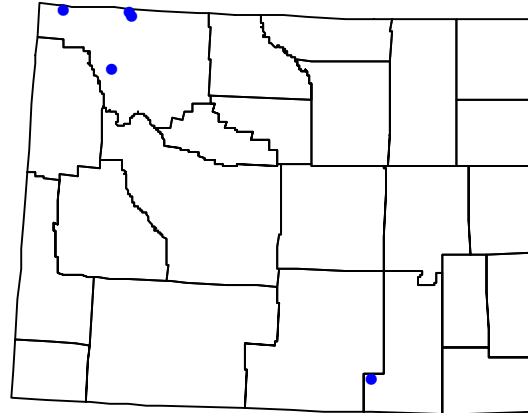
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral

(Low conservation priority)

Description: White-stem pondweed is a submersed, rhizomatous aquatic forb with whitish to olive-green, sparsely branched, rounded stems 10-30 dm long. The leaves are all submersed and morphologically similar, with sessile, entire-margined, oblong to lance-shaped blades 10-25 cm long and 20-30 mm wide. Stipules are 4-10 cm long, whitish, firm, and persistent. Flowering and fruiting stalks are 10-30 cm long and usually extend above the surface of the water. The inflorescence is a loose spike 3-5 cm long composed of greenish flowers. Fruits are achenes 4-5 mm long with a prominent dorsal keel (Cronquist et al. 1977; Dorn 1992).

Similar Species: *Potamogeton richardsonii* has leaves with flat tips and blades mostly under 10 cm long and fruits less than 3.5 mm long. *P. crispus* has leaves 3-12 mm wide with finely toothed margins. *P. amplifolius* has morphologically distinct floating and petioled submerged leaves (Cronquist et al. 1977; Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers June-July, fruits present July-August.



Wyoming distribution of *Potamogeton praelongus*.

Distribution: Eurasia and North America from Alaska to Newfoundland south to California, central Colorado, Indiana, and New Jersey. In Wyoming, known only from the Medicine Bow, Absaroka, and Beartooth ranges and Yellowstone Plateau (Albany and Park counties).

Habitat: Occurs in deep water lakes and slow-moving streams (Cronquist et al. 1977). In Wyoming, populations are found in ponds, lakes, and bogs at 6600-9200 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 extant records in Wyoming, all of which have been observed since 1975 (most recently in 1996) and 1 historical report.

Abundance: Populations may be locally abundant in suitable habitat, but habitat is widely scattered and small in extent.

Trends: Trend data are lacking, but extant populations are thought to be stable at present.

Protection status: At least 2 occurrences are found in special management areas: Yellowstone NP and the Washakie Wilderness (Shoshone NF). The Lily Lake population is found near the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area boundary and may occur in the potential Lake Creek Bogs RNA. Other populations occur on National Forest lands managed for multiple use (mostly with an emphasis on recreation or livestock grazing).

Threats: Threatened by alteration of ponds and loss of water quality.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Yellowstone National Park and Medicine Bow and Shoshone National Forests.

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