

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

POTAMOGETON STRICTIFOLIUS
STRICT-LEAVED PONDWEED
Family: Potamogetonaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None

Agency Status: None.

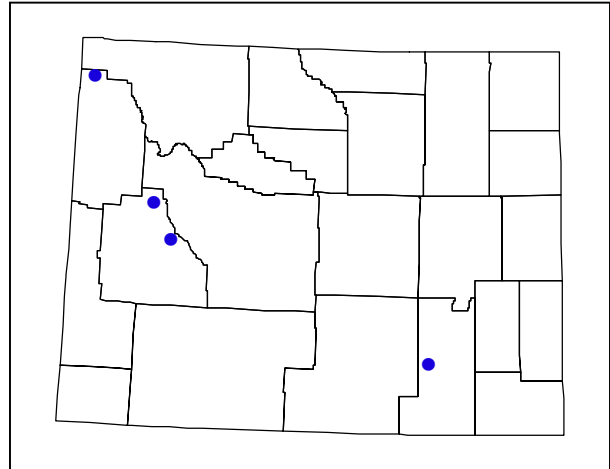
Heritage Rank:

Global: G5State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral
(Medium conservation priority)

Description: Strict-leaved pondweed is a submersed perennial aquatic plant with a slender unbranched or few-branched stem 1-10 dm long arising from a short, slender rhizome. Leaves are all submersed, narrowly linear, 2-7 cm long x 0.5-2 mm wide, usually 3 (5) nerved, and sessile at the base. The leaf base is encircled by a sheath 0.8-2 cm long that soon ruptures and falls off. The flowering stalk is 1-9 cm long, surmounted by small flowers scattered in 3-4 whorls. The greenish tepals are 1.3-1.8 mm long, producing fruits that are 2-3 mm long x 1.5-2 mm wide, with a prominent rounded ridge on back, and a persistent style 0.3-0.7 mm long positioned on the opposite margin (Cronquist et al. 1977, Dorn 1992).

Similar Species: Among flat, narrow-leaved species of *Potamogeton*, *P. robbinsii* and *P. zosteriformis* have 15+ nerves. *Potamogeton vaginatus* has inflated sheathes at the base of lower leaves. *Potamogeton foliosus* lacks a pair of glands at the base of the leaves. *Potamogeton pusillus* and *P. obtusifolius* have translucent, greenish or whitish appendages at the base of the leaves. *Potamogeton friesii* has flat leaves, 1.5-3.5 mm wide, and a ridge on the achene.



Wyoming distribution of *Potamogeton strictifolius*

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Ranging across Canada and the northeastern United States, south to Virginia, Illinois, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Idaho, with an outlying population in northern Utah. In Wyoming, it is historically known from the Yellowstone Plateau of Yellowstone National Park, the northwest Wind River Range of Sublette County, and Laramie Basin of Albany County. A recent report from Sweetwater County needs to be confirmed (Cramer and Hartman 1996).

Habitat: Rooted in shallow water at edge of gently flowing rivers, lakes, or reservoirs at 6800-8000 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 records in Wyoming, all of which were observed between 1953-1964. A recent (1994) report needs to be confirmed.

Abundance: Unknown.

Trends: Unknown.

Protection status: The only protected occurrence in Wyoming is in Yellowstone National Park. Other populations are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Not known, although water pollution and diversion are potential threats.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by the BLM Rawlins Field Office, Bridger-Teton National Forest, and Yellowstone National Park. A report from the BLM Rock Springs Field Office needs confirmation.

References:

Cramer, T. and R.L. Hartman. 1996. General floristic/sensitive plant species survey of the Upper Green River Basin, Wyoming, final report. Unpublished report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management by the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming. 11 pp. + appendices.

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