

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*PRIMULA EGALIKSENSIS*  
GREENLAND PRIMROSE  
Family: Primulaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.  
Agency Status: USFS Region 2 Sensitive;  
USFS Region 4 Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct (Medium  
conservation priority)

Description: Greenland primrose is a slender, glabrous herb with leafless flowering stems to 12 cm high. Leaves are oblong or spoon-shaped, light-green, and in a basal rosette. The inflorescence is an umbel of 1-3 flowers which occur singly or in pairs. Petals are white, pink, or lilac with a yellow throat, and are wedge-shaped with notched tips. The fruits are erect, narrowly cylindrical capsules opening at the top by tooth-like valves (Fertig et al. 1994).

Identification Comments: Best identified in flower. Narrow, capsular fruit are distinctive, but difficult to locate among surrounding vegetation.

Similar Species: *Primula incana* has whitish-yellow, mealy coated leaves and stems. *Parnassia parviflora* has leafy stems, white flowers, and broad, oval-shaped fruit. *Dodecatheon* spp. can be distinguished in fruit by their broader capsules.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers May-July. Fruits June-August. Reproduces by seed.

Distribution: Greenland and Northern Canada to northeastern Asia; disjunct in central Colorado and northwest Wyoming. In Wyoming it is known only from the Clarks Fork Valley in the northern Absaroka Mountains and the Upper Green River Valley on the west slope of the Wind River Range.

Habitat: Wet meadows along waterways and in montane fens, often on hummocky terrain that is locally drier than its wet, marshy surroundings.

Management Considerations: Maintaining proper water levels may be important for the long-term management of this species. Populations near trails may be threatened by trampling from hikers and livestock.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from two extant occurrences in Wyoming, last observed in 1998 and 1999.

Abundance: The total state population is estimated at 10,000-14,000 plants and is restricted to about 105 acres of habitat.

Trends: Populations are thought to be stable at present. Low population numbers may be due to the very limited area of suitable habitat, and not the result of a population decline.

Protection status: The population on Shoshone National Forest is protected within the Swamp Lake Special Botanical Area. The Bridger-Teton NF population has no formal protection. This species is listed as Sensitive in USFS Region 2 and on Bridger-Teton NF.

Threats: Threatened by loss or despoilation of wetland habitats by livestock or recreational users.

Managed Areas: Populations occur in Bridger-Teton and Shoshone National Forests.

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