State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

**RUBUS ACAULIS**
NAGOONBERRY
Family: Rosaceae

**Status:**
US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: Sensitive in USFS Region 2.

**Heritage Rank:**
Global: G5  State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low Conservation Priority)

**Description:** *Rubus acaulis* is a low, rhizomatous, perennial herb with non-bristly/prickly stems to 15 cm high. The leaves are divided into three ovate to obovate leaflets with serrated margins. Flowers are usually solitary and have dark pink or rose-purple petals 10-15 mm long. Fruits are red, globose raspberries (Fertig et al. 1994, Hitchcock and Cronquist 1961).

**Synonyms:** *Rubus arcticus* ssp. *acaulis*, *Cylactis arctica* ssp. *acaulis*.

**Similar Species:** *Rubus pubescens* has smaller, white-petaled flowers and sharp-tipped leaflets. *Fragaria* ssp. have white flowers and 5 sepals and 5 sepal-like bracts. Small, vegetative individuals of *Geum macrophyllum* have pinnately compound leaves with 5 or more leaflets (terminal leaflet largest).

**Flowering/Fruiting Period:** Mid June-July.

**Distribution:** Alaska to Newfoundland south to British Columbia and Minnesota, and in the Rocky Mountains from Montana to Colorado. In Wyoming, known from the east slope of the Bighorn Mountains (Johnson Co.) and Yellowstone Plateau (Teton County).

**Habitat:** In understory of moderate to dense canopy cover in spruce, spruce/willow, and
occasionally willow dominated communities. (Boggy woods and marshes, mountain meadows, and alpine tundra at 7000-9000 feet).

**Occurrences in Wyoming:** Known from 3 extant records (all observed since 1995) and 1 vague historical report in Wyoming.

**Abundance:** The Bighorn Range population contained hundreds of thousands of stems (representing an unknown number of genetically distinct individuals, due to the plants clonal nature) within a small geographic area in 1999. Reported as "relatively abundant" at one site in Yellowstone National Park by J. Whipple.

![Wyoming distribution of *R. acaulis.*](image)

**Trends:** Probably stable.

**Protection status:** One occurrence is protected within Yellowstone NP. Populations in the Bighorn Range are on public lands managed for multiple use.

**Threats:** May be impacted by reservoir development in Bighorns, logging, grazing, and high recreation use.

**Managed Areas:** Occurs in Bighorn National Forest and Yellowstone National Park.

**References:**


