

*SALIX SERISSIMA*

AUTUMN WILLOW  
SALICACEAE

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct  
(Medium Conservation Priority)

Description: Autumn willow is a shrub 1-4 m tall with grayish-brown branches and reddish-brown, glossy twigs. The elliptic leaves are lighter below than above and have glandular-toothed margins and glandular petioles. Catkins are borne on short, leafy stalks (peduncles). Pistillate catkins are 2-4 cm long and have glabrous capsules and deciduous, pale yellow, hairy flowers bracts. Staminate catkins, produced on separate plants, have flowers with 3-8 stamens.

Identification Comments: Twigs and leaves are needed for identification, catkins are helpful.

Similar Species: *Salix lasiandra* var. *caudata* has long-pointed leaves equally green on both sides. *S. fragilis* has twigs that are brittle at the base and catkins maturing in early spring.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers May - July, fruits produced June - September. Unique among Wyoming willows in the late fruiting period.



Above: *Salix serissima* on South Branch of North Fork Crow Creek, Laramie Range, by Walter Fertig August 1995.

Distribution: Laramie Range in southeastern Wyoming. May occur in the Black Hills of Wyoming (known from the South Dakota Black Hills).

Habitat: Montane swamps and bogs. Wyoming populations occur at 7900 feet. Occurs with *Salix brachycarpa*, *S. planifolia*, *S. bebbiana*, and *Carex simulata*.

Associated Rare Species: *Salix candida*, *Lomatogonium rotatum*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single location in Wyoming, first documented in 1991 (last surveyed in 2000).

Abundance: Fertig observed 80-100 individuals in area of less than 4 acres in 1995.

Trends: Not known.



Above: *Salix serissima* by W. Fertig (Fertig et al. 1994).

Protection status: The single known occurrence in Wyoming is found on public lands managed for multiple use. Listed as Sensitive in US Forest Service Region 2.

Threats: Potentially threatened by grazing and loss of wetland habitat from water diversion. Some habitat may have been lost when the Happy Jack Road was paved.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Medicine Bow National Forest.

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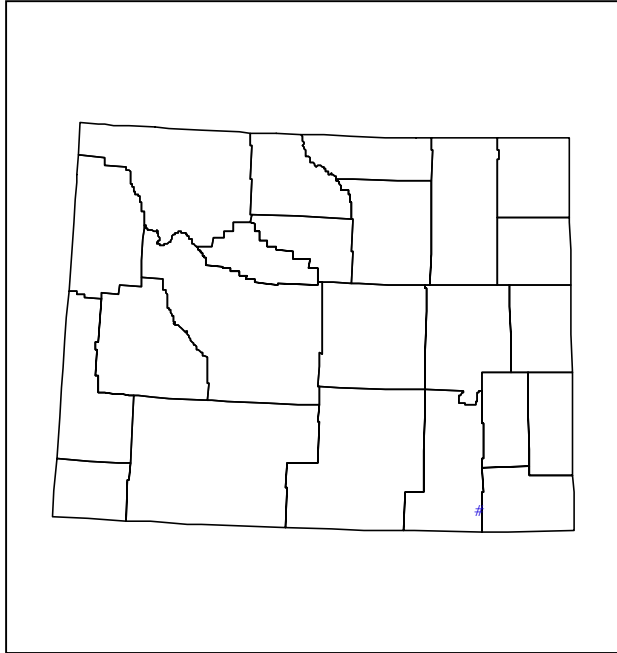
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Wyoming distribution of *Salix serissima*.

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