

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

SAUSSUREA WEBERI
WEBER'S SAW-WORT
Family: Asteraceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3 State: S2
WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic
(Medium conservation priority)

Description: Weber's saw-wort is a perennial herb from a thick rooststalk with leafy stems 4-20 cm tall. Stems and leaves are loosely pubescent with tangled, cobwebby hairs. Leaves are entire or wavy-toothed, narrowly to broadly lance-shaped, and sessile on the upper stem, but petioled on the lower stem. Flower heads are densely clustered, appearing as one large head 2-4 cm across (especially in fruit). Each head consists of an involucre of 2-3 overlapping rows of blunt, dark-tipped, oval bracts and numerous purple disk flowers (rays are lacking). The white pappus consists of long, feathery and simple bristles. Fruits are glabrous achenes (Fertig et al. 1994; Scott 1997; Hulten 1959; Marriott 1991).

Synonyms: *Saussurea densa*.

Similar Species: *Cirsium*, *Carduus*, and *Centaurea* spp. have spiny or bristly leaves, stems, and involucre (Fertig et al. 1994).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Regional endemic of southwest Montana, northwest Wyoming, and central Colorado. In Wyoming, Weber's saw-wort is restricted to the Gros Ventre and northern



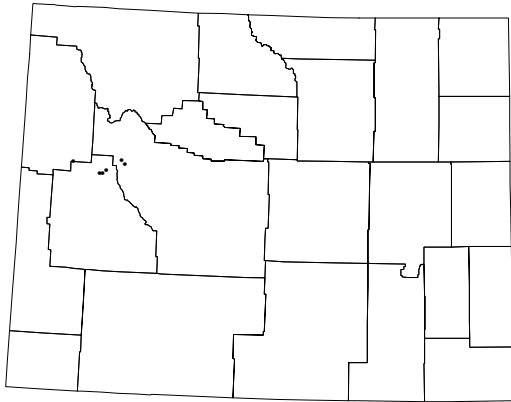
Above: *Saussurea weberi* by Walter Fertig.
Below: *S. weberi* by Hollis Marriott.



Wind River ranges in Sublette, Fremont, and Teton counties.

Habitat: Occurs on alpine talus slopes and gravel fields, mostly on limestone-derived substrates at 9600-11500 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 6 locations in Wyoming, all of which have been located since 1981 (most recently in 1998).



Above: Wyoming distribution of *S. weberi*.

Abundance: Populations often have thousands to tens of thousands of individuals, but are restricted to small areas of suitable habitat in the alpine.

Trends: Populations are assumed to be stable.

Protection Status: All known occurrences are found within designated wilderness areas (Bridger, Fitzpatrick, and Gros Ventre Wilderness Areas). Populations are also found in the Osborn Mountain Research Natural Area and potential Arrow Mountain RNA.

Threats: Occurs in relatively inaccessible alpine areas with no obvious disturbances aside from hikers.

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

References:

Colorado Native Plant Society. 1997. Rare Plants of Colorado, second edition. Falcon Press Publ., Helena, MT.

Cronquist, A. 1955. Pt. 5. Compositae. In: Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson (eds). Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest. Univ. Washington Publ. Biol. 17(5): 1-343.

Fertig, W. 1992. A floristic survey of the west slope of the Wind River Range, Wyoming. Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Wyoming, Department of Botany.

Fertig, W. 1992. Checklist of the Vascular plant flora of the west slope of the Wind River Range and status report on the sensitive plant species of Bridger-Teton National Forest. Unpublished report prepared for the Bridger-Teton National Forest by the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming.

Fertig, W. 1997. Plant species of special concern on Shoshone National Forest: 1996 survey results. Unpublished report prepared by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Fertig, W. 1998. The status of rare plants on Shoshone National Forest: 1995-97 survey results. Report prepared by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Fertig, W. 2000. Rare vascular plant species in the Wyoming portion of the Utah-Wyoming Rocky Mountains Ecoregion. Prepared for the Wyoming Nature Conservancy by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

- Fertig, W. and G. Jones. 1994. Establishment record for Osborn Mountain Research Natural Area within Bridger-Teton National Forest, Sublette County, Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared for US Forest Service Region 4, by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.
- Fertig, W., C. Refsdal, and J. Whipple. 1994. Wyoming Rare Plant Field Guide. Wyoming Rare Plant Technical Committee, Cheyenne Wyoming.
- Fertig, W., R.L. Hartman, and B.E. Nelson. 1991. General floristic survey of the west slope of the Wind River Range, Bridger-Teton National Forest, 1990. Report prepared for Bridger-Teton National Forest by the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.
- Hartman, R.L. 1995. General floristic/sensitive plant species survey of the Gros Ventre Range, Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared for Bridger-Teton National Forest by the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming.
- Hulten, E. 1959. A new species of *Saussurea* from Colorado. *Svensk Botanisk Tidskrift* 53 (2): 200-202.
- Jones, G.P. and W. Fertig. 1999. Ecological evaluation of the potential Arrow Mountain Research Natural Area within the Shoshone National Forest, Fremont County, Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared for the Shoshone National Forest, USDA Forest Service by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming.
- Lesica, P. & J. S. Shelly. 1991. Sensitive, Threatened and Endangered Vascular Plants of Montana. Montana Natural Heritage Program, Occ. Publ. No. 1. Helena, MT.
- Marriott, H.J. 1988. Survey of sensitive plant species on Shoshone National Forest. Unpublished report prepared for Shoshone National Forest by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.
- Marriott, H.J. 1991. Survey for *Androsace chamaejasme* var. *carinata* and *Saussurea weberi*, northwest Wind River Range, Wyoming. Prepared for Bridger-Teton National Forest by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.
- Mills, S. and W. Fertig. 1996. Field guide to rare and Sensitive plants of the Shoshone National Forest. Report prepared by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.
- O'Kane, S.L. 1988. Colorado's rare flora. *Great Basin Naturalist* 48 (4):434-484.
- Rosenthal, D.M. 1998. Report on a general floristic survey of vascular plants in selected areas of Shoshone National Forest. Report prepared by the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.
- Rosenthal, D.M. 1999. A floristic survey of selected areas in Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming. Master's Thesis, Department of Botany, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.
- Scott, R.W. 1997. The Alpine Flora of the Rocky Mountains. Volume 1 The Middle Rockies. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Soreng, R. J. 1984. Noteworthy Collections: Wyoming. *Madrono* 31: 127.
- Spackman, S., B. Jennings, J. Coles, C. Dawson, M. Minton, A. Kratz, and C.

Spurrier. 1997. Colorado Rare Plant Field Guide. Prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Ft. Collins, CO.

Welp, L., W.F. Fertig, G.P. Jones, G.P. Beauvais, and S.M. Ogle. 2000. Fine filter analysis of the Bighorn, Medicine Bow, and Shoshone National Forests in Wyoming. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Author: Walter Fertig

Updated: 00-11-24