

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

SAXIFRAGA CHRYSANTHA
GOLDEN SAXIFRAGE
Family: Saxifragaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Sparse (Low conservation priority)

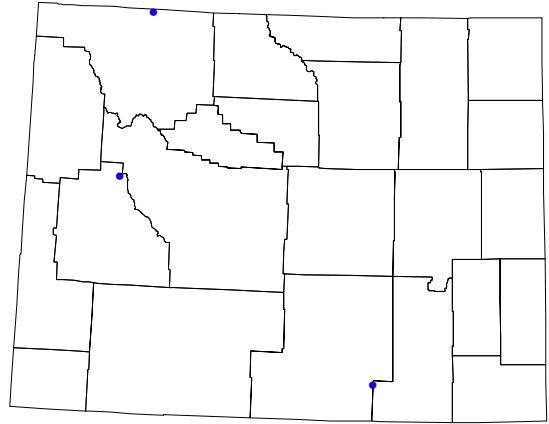
Description: Golden saxifrage is a perennial herb with leafy stems 2-6 cm tall. The glabrous, fleshy leaves are linear-oblong to spoon-shaped, entire, and borne in a tight basal rosette and scattered along the flowering stem. Stolons are absent. Flowers are usually solitary (occasionally 2-3) on each stem and have 5 golden-yellow, oval petals (5.5-7 mm long) and 5 reflexed sepals. The fruits are capsules with 2 curved beaks at the tip (Harrington 1954; Duft and Moseley 1989; Fertig 1993).

Synonyms: *Saxifraga serpyllifolia* var. *chrysantha*.

Similar Species: *Saxifraga flagellaris* has prominent stolons and glandular-ciliate leaves. Yellow-flowered, mat-like species of *Draba* differ in having 4-petaled flowers and pubescent leaves.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Rocky Mountains from Montana to Utah and New Mexico. Sparse in Wyoming, where it is known from the Beartooth, Medicine Bow, and Wind River ranges (Albany, Carbon, Park and Sublette Counties).



Wyoming distribution of *Saxifraga chrysantha*.

Habitat: Cushion plant communities on stony ridgcrests and rocky slopes at or above treeline, often near snowbanks at 10500-11600 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 6-7 records, but these may represent only 4 distinct populations (Scott 1997).

Abundance: Locally abundant at one site in the Snowy Range. No population data are available from other sites.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: One population is within the Medicine Bow Peak Special Botanical Area. Several reported occurrences on Shoshone National Forest may occur within the Fitzpatrick or Popo Agie wilderness areas (Scott 1997). An additional population may be within the proposed Line Creek/Twin Lakes Research Natural Area (Fertig and Bynum 1994).

Threats: Most populations are probably secure due to their rugged habitat. The

Medicine Bow Peak population occurs in an area that receives relatively high recreational use.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by the Bridger-Teton, Medicine Bow and Shoshone National Forests.

References:

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