

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*STEPHANOMERIA FLUMINEA*  
TETON WIRE-LETTUCE  
ASTERACEAE

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G2 State: S2

Very High Wyoming Conservation Rank

Description: Teton wire-lettuce is a milky-juiced perennial forb with multiple stems 15-40 (75) cm tall from a creeping rhizome. Stems and leaves are short-woolly throughout. Basal leaves are oblong or oblanceolate with entire to toothed margins and form a rosette. Stem leaves are 35-45 mm long and 3-5 mm wide with oblong-oblanceolate blades and entire margins. Flower heads have 5 main involucre bracts 8-10 mm long subtended by shorter, irregular bracts 2-4 mm long and are borne in an open, terminal panicle. Heads contain 5-6 pink, lavender, or rarely white ligulate flowers (disk flowers are lacking). Fruits are tan, ribbed achenes 4-4.4 mm long and topped by a white pappus of feather-like bristles (Gottlieb 1999, Dorn 2001).

Similar Species: *Stephanomeria tenuifolia* has slender stem leaves less than 3 mm wide. *S. runcinata* has deeply-divided leaves with backward-pointing lobes and roughened achenes. *Lygodesmia* spp. have smooth pappus bristles. Note: Some subpopulations have narrow cauline leaves less than 2 mm wide and might be a hybrid with *S. tenuifolia* (Gottlieb 1999).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Late July-Sept.



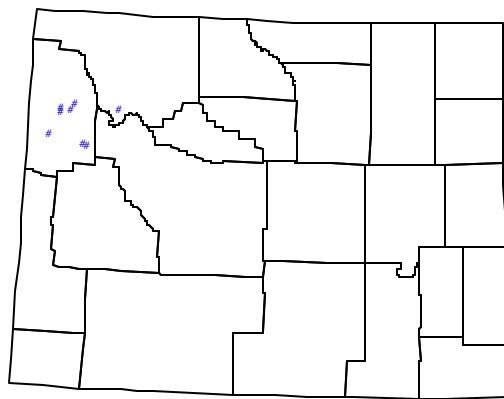
Above: *Stephanomeria fluminea* by Stuart Markow.  
Below: *S. fluminea* Walter Fertig.



Distribution: State endemic of the Absaroka and Gros Ventre ranges and Jackson Hole in Park, Sublette, and Teton counties.

Habitat: Sand, gravel, and cobblestone bars along large streams and rivers at 6360-7800 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 6 extant occurrences in Wyoming (most recently observed in 2003) and 2 historical records.



Wyoming distribution of *Stephanomeria fluminea*.

Abundance: Populations may be locally abundant in suitable habitats along major streams in Grand Teton National Park, where there are 12,173 plants in 6 occurrences (Markow 2001). Populations extend upstream onto Bridger-Teton National Forest and total 7580 plants in five of the stream systems (Markow 2004).

Trends: Not known. One population recently reported in the 100's was revisited and is a magnitude smaller, possibly due to churning in spring floods. It is usually found in areas with low canopy cover, in early-succession conditions.



Above: Habitat of *Stephanomeria fluminea* on river terraces with cottonwood along the Gros Ventre River. Photo by Stuart Markow.

Protection Status: 6 extant occurrences are protected in Grand Teton National Park and the Teton and Washakie wilderness areas.

Threats: Gravel quarrying in river bottoms, impoundments and diversions may impact the hydrological regime, and spotted knapweed and sweetclover encroachment may be concerns.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Grand Teton National Park and Bridger-Teton and Shoshone national forests.

References:

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Author: Walter Fertig

Update author: Bonnie Heidel

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