-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.
**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.

**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.

**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:**


Yellowstone Network Inventory and Grand Teton National Park.


**Author:** Walter Fertig  
**Update author:** Bonnie Heidel  
**Updated:** 04-01-16