**THELESPERMA PUBESCENS**  
**UINTA GREENTHREAD**  
Family: Asteraceae

**Status:**  
US Fish & Wildlife Service: None, formerly a C2 candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act  
Agency Status: USFS Region 4: Sensitive. WY BLM: Sensitive

**Heritage Rank:**  
Global: G1  
State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: State endemic (High conservation priority)

**Description:** Uinta greenthread is a perennial herb from a thick, woody, branched caudex and taproot covered with old leaf bases. Flowering stems are 3-12 cm high, glabrous, and mostly leafless. Basal leaves are 1-5 cm long, pinnately compound with 3-5 linear leaflets, and densely short gray-hairy. Flower heads occur singly or rarely in pairs and have 2 rows of unequal scarious-margined bracts, with the outer bracts shorter and often reflexed. Ray flowers are absent. Disk flowers are yellow, 5 mm long, and lack a pappus. Achenes are glabrous, angular, about 4 mm long, and subtended by a long membranous bract (Dorn 1983, 1989; Marriott 1988; Fertig et al. 1994).

**Similar Species:**  
*Thelesperma caespitosum* has glabrous leaf blades. Other Wyoming species of *Thelesperma* have conspicuous ray flowers, leafy stems, or glabrous herbage. *Hymenopappus filifolius* has long cobwebby pubescence, scale-like pappus, and many flower heads per stem. Rayless *Erigeron compositus* specimens have hair-like pappus bristles and a single row of involucre bracts.

**Flowering/Fruiting Period:** July-August.

**Distribution:** Endemic to foothills of southern Green River Basin and northern Uinta Range in southwest Wyoming (Uinta and Sweetwater counties) and reported for adjacent northeast Utah.

**Habitat:** Uinta greenthread grows on cobbly soils, typically along the summit edges of relict surfaces that now stand as isolated "mountains". These mesa-like mountains are capped with the Bishop Conglomerate and are sparsely vegetated with cushion plant communities and sagebrush grasslands. *T. pubescens* may occasionally be found at the edge of mountain mahogany communities found just below the summit rim (Marriott 1988).
Wyoming distribution of *Thelesperma pubescens*.

**Occurrences in Wyoming:** Known from 4 extant occurrences in Wyoming, most recently observed in 1999.

**Abundance:** Dorn (1989) estimated the total population at 9200 plants covering 270 acres. This estimate is probably conservative, based on observations by Marriott (1988) and Fertig.

**Trends:** Probably stable at present.

**Protection status:** All 4 known populations are within Special Status Plant ACECs established in 1997 by the BLM Rock Springs Field Office (USDI Bureau of Land Management 1997).

**Threats:** Populations are potentially threatened by surface disturbances associated with oil and gas exploration and development. Rim populations could also be adversely affected by motorized recreational vehicles.

**Managed Areas:** Occurs on lands managed by the BLM Rock Springs Field Office and Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

**References:**


Author: Walter Fertig
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