

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*TONESTUS PYGMAEUS*  
[*HAPLOPAPPUS PYGMAEUS*]  
PYGMY GOLDENWEED  
Family: Asteraceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.  
Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral  
(Low conservation priority)

Description: Pygmy goldenweed is a perennial, mat-forming herb with numerous, 1-6 cm tall leafy stems from a branched caudex. Leaves and stems are pubescent with soft, multicellular hairs, but lack glands. Basal and stem leaves are 1-5 cm long and 1.5-5 mm wide, with entire, linear-oblong to oblong, ciliate-margined blades. Flower heads occur singly on each stem and have leaf-like involucre bracts and 15-30 yellow ray flowers. Fruits are compressed, cylindrical achenes with soft, whitish pappus bristles (Cronquist 1955; Harrington 1954; Duft and Moseley 1989).

Synonym: *Haplopappus pygmaeus*.

Similar Species: *Tonestus* [*Haplopappus*] *lyallii* has conspicuously glandular stems and leaves and can be as tall as 15 cm. *Stenotus acaulis* and *S. armerioides* have leafless flowering stems and 15 or fewer ray flowers per head.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Southeastern Wyoming to northern New Mexico, with a disjunct

population in the Bridger Mountains of southwestern Montana. In Wyoming, this



Above: *Haplopappus pygmaeus* by Walter Fertig.

species is restricted to the Snowy Range (Medicine Bow Mountains) in Albany and Carbon counties.

Habitat: Cushion plant communities interspersed among krummholz in gravelly fellfields, toe slopes, and ridgecrests at or above treeline (10770-11600 feet).

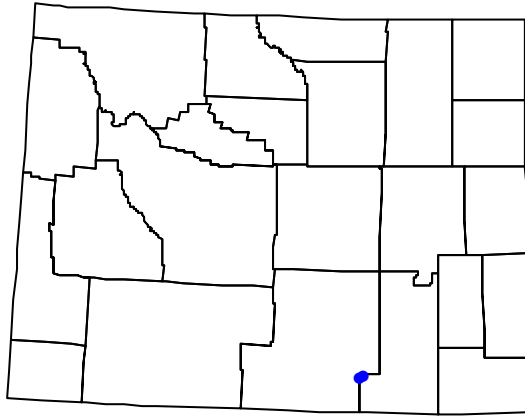
Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 extant occurrences, both observed since 1993 (most recently in 2000).

Abundance: Not known. Population censuses have not been undertaken, but the species is believed to be at least moderately to locally common within its restricted range.

Trends: Presumed to be stable, although long-term trend data are not available.

Protection status: One occurrence is partially contained within the Medicine Bow Peak

Special Botanical Area. Other occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use.



Wyoming distribution of *Tonestus pygmaeus*.

Threats: Threats are relatively low, although trampling by recreationalists or high elevation grazing may be a threat if use is high.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Medicine Bow National Forest.

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