

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*TRILLIUM OVATUM*  
WESTERN TRILLIUM  
Family: Liliaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S2  
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct  
(Medium conservation priority)

Description: Western trillium is a perennial herb with annual, non-woody stems 10-30 cm tall from a rhizome. The 5-15 cm long leaves are sessile, broadly oval to triangular, and are arranged in a single whorl of 3 below the 2-8 cm long flower stalk. Flowers are single, with 3 green, leaf-like sepals and 3 white to pinkish-white petals (these turning pink to red with age) up to 3 cm wide. Fruits are berry-like, slightly winged, and yellow (Hitchcock et al. 1969; Dorn 1992).

Similar Species: *Lilium philadelphicum* also has whorled leaves but differs in having orange flowers with 6 tepals.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-July.

Distribution: British Columbia south to central California and east to Alberta and southern Idaho. Disjunct in the Sierra Madre of Wyoming (Carbon County) and adjacent north-central Colorado.

Habitat: Streambanks to open or thick woods, often where soils are boggy in early spring (Hitchcock et al. 1969). In Wyoming, most populations are found along moist streambanks with thick needle duff soils in



Above: *Trillium ovatum* by W. Jennings.

Englemann spruce or lodgepole pine woods at 7350-9800 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 7 occurrences in Wyoming, most of which were last reported in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

Abundance: Not known. Census data are lacking for nearly all populations.

Trends: Trend data are lacking, but most populations appear to be stable to slightly declining. Some small colonies may have been lost due to changes in habitat following logging.

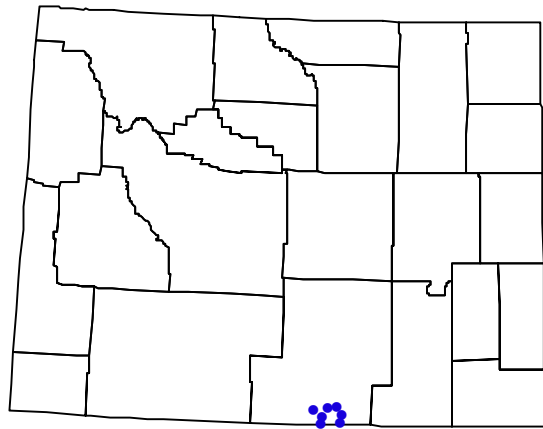
Protection status: No populations are currently within designated special management areas, although several occurrences are present just outside the boundaries of the Huston Park Wilderness Area (potential habitat is probably present within this area).

Threats: May be moderately threatened by loss of habitat to logging and road construction or picking for flowers and garden stock.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by the BLM Rawlins Field Office and Medicine Bow National Forest (Hayden RD).

References:

Dorn, R.D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, second edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.



Wyoming distribution of *Trillium ovatum*.

Gates, R.R. 1917. A systematic study of the North American genus *Trillium*, its variability, and its relation to *Paris* and *Medeola*. *Annals Missouri Botanical Garden* 4:61:43-59-63

Harrington, H. D. 1954. *Manual of the Plants of Colorado*. Sage Books, Chicago, IL.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, and M. Ownbey. 1969. Pt. 1. Vascular Cryptograms, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons, IN: Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson

(eds). *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Washington Publications in Biology 17(1): 1-914.

Jankovsky-Jones, M., G. Jones, and W. Fertig. 1995. Ecological assessment for the potential Standard Park and Bogs Research Natural Area within the Medicine Bow National Forest, Carbon County, Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie.

Jankovsky-Jones, M., G. Jones, and W. Fertig. 1995. Ecological evaluation for the potential East Fork Encampment River Research Natural Area within the Medicine Bow National Forest, Carbon County, Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Welp, L., W.F. Fertig, G.P. Jones, G.P. Beauvais, and S.M. Ogle. 2000. Fine filter analysis of the Bighorn, Medicine Bow, and Shoshone National Forests in Wyoming. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Author: Walter Fertig

Updated: 00-10-20