

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

UTRICULARIA MINOR
LESSER BLADDERWORT
Family: Lentibulariaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: USFS R2 sensitive

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S2

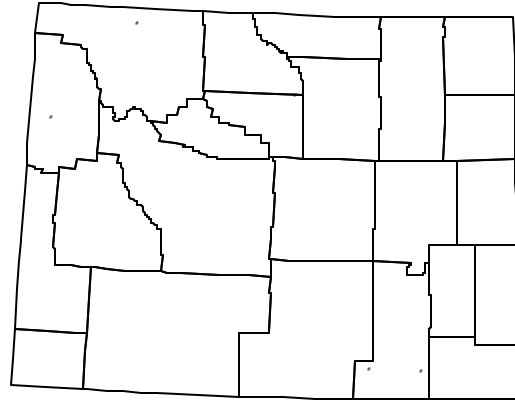
WYNDD Plant List: Sparse (Low conservation priority)

Description: Lesser bladderwort is a perennial aquatic herb with submersed, weak stems and leaves. The leaves are 0.3-1 cm long and finely dissected, with each 3-parted leaflet further divided into 1-3 flat, toothed segments. Small bladders (1-2 mm wide) are scattered along the main leaf blade among the leaflets. The inflorescence is a raceme of 2-9 yellow flowers on an emergent stalk 4-15 cm long. The short-spurred, snapdragon-like flowers are bilobed, with the lower lip 4-8 mm long and about twice as long as the upper lip (Cronquist et al. 1984).

Similar Species: *Utricularia vulgaris* has leaves 10-50 mm long, forked leaf segments, and flowers 12-18 mm long. *U. intermedia* has bladders 2.5-4.0 mm long, borne on separate, leafless branches.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July - Sept.

Distribution: Circumboreal, extending south in North America to California, Colorado, Indiana and New Jersey. In Wyoming, known from the Yellowstone Plateau, Jackson Hole, Laramie Valley, and Bighorn, Absaroka, and Laramie ranges, in Albany, Park, Teton, and Washakie Counties.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *U. minor*.

Habitat: Submerged in shallow ponds, lakes, and slow-moving streams at 6600-8600 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from at least 6 records in Wyoming (one of which is historical, dating from 1900). Two records have been relocated since 1996.

Abundance: Known populations are all very small and restricted to specialized microsites. This species may be more widespread and abundant than currently known, especially in Yellowstone National Park (Jennifer Whipple, personal communication). The plant can be extremely difficult to locate and identify when it is not in flower.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: One occurrence is protected within the Swamp Lake Special Botanical Area (Shoshone NF) and at least 2 others are found within Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. All other known populations are on unprotected private lands or public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be threatened by loss or deterioration of wetland habitat.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by Bighorn, Shoshone and Medicine Bow National Forests and Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks.

References:

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Author: Walter Fertig

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