

Announcing:

NEW “Wyoming Flora Checklist” and “Wyoming Invasives” list

Rocky Mountain Herbarium homepage (<https://www.uwyo.edu/botany/rocky-mountain-herbarium/>) is back online and better than ever! It includes the popular RM Specimen Database, containing >874,000 specimen records, >200,000 high resolution specimen images, and distributional maps of each species in Wyoming and beyond, that is the mainstay of users around the state and country. The **newest** information gems to be added include a Wyoming Flora Checklist (<http://www.uwyo.edu/wyndd/files/docs/wyoming-checklists/flora-of-wyoming-checklist.pdf>) and a list of non-native species entitled Wyoming Invasives (<https://www.uwyo.edu/botany/rocky-mountain-herbarium/wyweed.pdf>).

The Wyoming Flora Checklist marks a scientific benchmark and biodiversity metric plus:

- A list of Wyoming plants as recognized in the Herbarium (RM),
- Additions to the state flora among voucher specimens deposited at RM or reported in specimen-based research such as Flora of North America (1993-present) since the current state flora (*Vascular Plants of Wyoming*, 3rd ed. by Dorn 2001),
- Taxonomic updating based on the professional judgement of B.E. Nelson,
- A cross-reference to the additional information compiled for “Wyoming Invasives”, and
- A cross-reference to the “Wyoming plant species of concern” with its expanded information maintained by Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD).

The Wyoming Invasives list treats just the plants that are not native to the flora, and it includes common names for them as used in major references.

Both lists are organized alphabetically by plant family. Each scientific name includes generic name + species epithet, followed its author. A state floristic checklist is like a botanical census, except that it is an ongoing endeavor rather than a set of pre-determined tasks every decade. This list is updated several times a year and includes the addition of species and an update of accepted name. Behind the Checklist is a database set up using RM nomenclature, maintained by WYNDD in cooperation with RM.

By current tallies, the Wyoming flora has grown! A comparison of numbers reported in Dorn (2001) and in the new checklist by Nelson (as of January 2018) is in Table 1.

Table 1. Size of the Wyoming flora reported over time

| Taxonomic level | No. of different taxa in Dorn (2001) | No. of different taxa in Nelson (2018) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Families | 142 | 159* |
| Genera | 723 | 873* |
| Species | 2509 | 2997 |
| Varieties | 714 | 885** |
| TOTAL unique taxa | 2800 | 3271 |

* families – increases largely due to APGIV (inclusion of DNA data), and to a lesser extent for genera

** subspecies – subspecies are also recognized but ~synonymous with varieties

Announcing:



RM Event

What: Whitebark Pine Conservation and Management

Who: Daniel Reinhart, Vegetation Ecologist at Grand Teton Natl Park
When: March 22, 5:30-6:30 pm; reception to follow

Where: Berry Center, 10th & Lewis St.



RM Faces: Taylor Britt

Taylor Britt is a sophomore at the University of Wyoming majoring in Ecology and Watershed Management with a minor in Forestry Resources. He’s no newbie to plants -- he learned about the RM through a range plants class, and represented UW at the Society for Range Management plant identification competition in January. Taylor volunteered in the imaging lab last semester, and did such a great job he was recently hired to continue the good work. He truly enjoys working at the RM, and is especially grateful for the hands-on experience, which enhances his career goals. We hope he remains at the RM for his entire undergraduate experience at UW. Welcome aboard Taylor!