

ATTACHMENT D8-3

Sensitive Plant Probability

Attachment D8-3 Sensitive Plant Probability

Plant Species of Special Concern

Threatened and Endangered Plants. Blowout penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*) is the only endangered plant species in Wyoming and is known from an area south of the Ferris Mountains in northwestern Carbon County (Fertig, 2000). While the species is known to occur on a site approximately 32 miles east-northeast of the Permit Area, it is unlikely to occur in the Permit Area. Blowout penstemon grows exclusively in sand blowout areas, a habitat type absent in the Permit Area. The site south of the Ferris Mountains is the only known location for the species in Wyoming. The only other known populations of blowout penstemon occur in similar sand blowout habitats in northwestern Nebraska. This species was not observed on the Permit Area.

Desert Yellowhead (*Yermo xanthocephalus*), a threatened species in Wyoming, occurs in southern Fremont County in the Beaver Rim Area, approximately 45 miles northwest of the Permit Area. This species was first discovered in 1990. Its only known population occurs in the Beaver Rim Area. The species appears to be restricted to surface outcrops of Miocene ash deposits. The known populations occur in an area of approximately 42 acres; however, plants occur on only approximately eight acres within the overall distribution area. Studies conducted subsequent to the 1990 discovery have not identified any other localities for the species (Heidel, 2002). Because of the unusual environment in which this species occurs, it is unlikely that it occurs on the Permit Area, and this species was not observed.

Other Rare Plant Species. In addition to species that are listed as federally threatened or endangered, there are 12 other rare plant species known to occur in Sweetwater County (**Attachment D8-3 Table 1**). None of these species were observed on the Permit Area.

Literature Cited

Fertig, W. 2000. Status of blowout penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*) in Wyoming. Report prepared for the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming, Laramie. 15p.

Heidel, B. 2002. Status report on desert yellowhead (*Yermo xanthocephalus*) in Wyoming. Report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office and Rawlins District under Cooperative Agreement No. KAA990027.

Attachment D8-3 Table 1: Rare Plant Species (Page 1 of 2) *

Scientific Name	Common Name	Local Distribution	Heritage ¹ / State Rank ²	Federal Status ³
<i>Artemisia biennis</i> var <i>diffusa</i>	Mystery Wormwood	Central Sweetwater Co.	G5T1Q/S1	C2
<i>Asclepias uncialis</i>	Dwarf Milkweed	Northwestern Sweetwater Co.	G3/SH	C2, S-R2
<i>Astragalus jejunus</i> var. <i>jejunus</i>	Starveling Milkvetch	Eastern and Western edges of Sweetwater Co.	G3T1/S1	C2
<i>Astragalus proimanthus</i>	Precocious Milkvetch	Extreme southwestern Sweetwater Co.	G1/S1	C2
<i>Cirsium ownbeyi</i>	Ownbey's Thistle	South-central Sweetwater Co.	G3/S1	C2
<i>Descurainia torulosa</i>	Wyoming Tansy Mustard	South-central Sweetwater Co.	G1/S1	C2, S-R2, S-R4
<i>Lesquerella macrocarpa</i>	Large-fruited Bladderpod	North-central Sweetwater Co.	G2/S2	C2
<i>Oryzopsis contracta</i>	Contracted Indian Ricegrass	Northeast, northwest and southwest Sweetwater Co.	G3/S3	C2
<i>Penstemon acaulis</i> var <i>acaulis</i>	Stemless Beardtongue	Extreme southwestern Sweetwater Co.	G3/S1	C2, S-R4
<i>Penstemon gibbensii</i>	Gibben's Beardtongue	Extreme southeastern Sweetwater Co.	G1/S1	C2
<i>Phlox opalensis</i>	Opal Phlox	Central part of western Sweetwater Co.	G1/S1	C2
<i>Thelesperma caespitosum</i>	Green River Greenthread	Southwestern Sweetwater Co.	G1/S1	C2, S-R4

* (USGS, 2006b)

¹ **Heritage Rank Codes:**

- G1: Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences, or very few remaining individuals), or because of some factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extinction (Critically endangered throughout its range).
- G2: Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences) or because of other factors demonstrably making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range. (Endangered throughout its range).
- G3: Very rare or local throughout its range or found locally in a restricted range (21 to 100 occurrences. (Threatened throughout its range).

Attachment D8-3 Table 1: Rare Plant Species (Page 2 of 2)

G4: Apparently secure globally, though it might be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

G5: Demonstrably secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

T1: The variety is critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences, or very few remaining individuals), or because of some factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extinction (Critically endangered throughout its range).

Q: Indicates uncertainty about taxonomic status.

² **State Rank Codes:**

S1: Critically imperiled in state because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences, or very few remaining individuals), or because of some factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state. (Critically endangered in state).

S2: Imperiled in state because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences) or because of other factors demonstrably making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the state (Endangered or threatened in state).

S3: Rare in state (21 to 100 occurrences)

SH: Of historical occurrence, not documented in Wyoming since 1920.

³ **Federal Status Codes:**

C2: Notice of Review, Category 2: taxa for which current information indicates that proposing to list as endangered or threatened is possible, but appropriate or substantial biological information is not on file to support an immediate rulemaking.

S: Sensitive: those plant and animal species identified by the Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern as evidenced by:

a. Significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density.

b. Significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.

R: Forest Region