

WYNDD Botany UPDATE

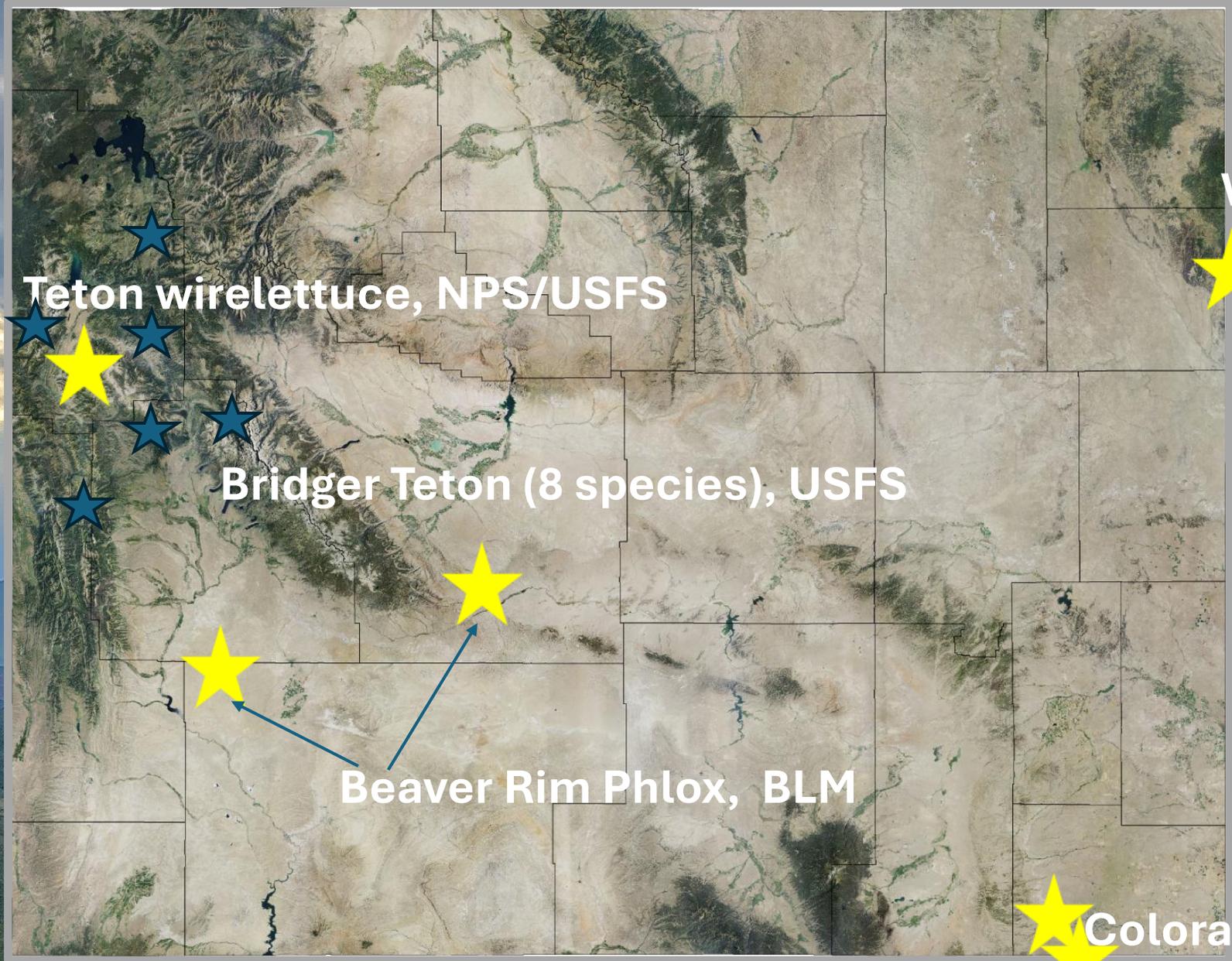
Sienna Wessel
Lead Botanist

Passing the torch



Congrats to Bonnie Heidel on nearly 24 years with WYNDD!

Sienna Wessel,
UW 2022 Alum



Teton wirelettuce, NPS/USFS

Bridger Teton (8 species), USFS

Beaver Rim Phlox, BLM

Wind Cave NP Flora, NPS

Colorado Butterfly Plant, FWS

Ute ladies' tresses, FWS

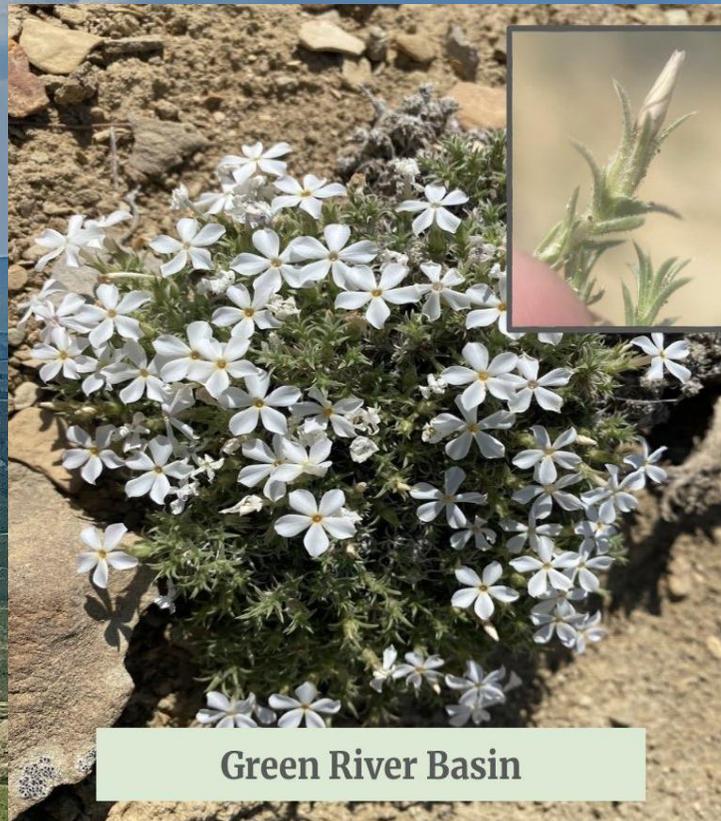
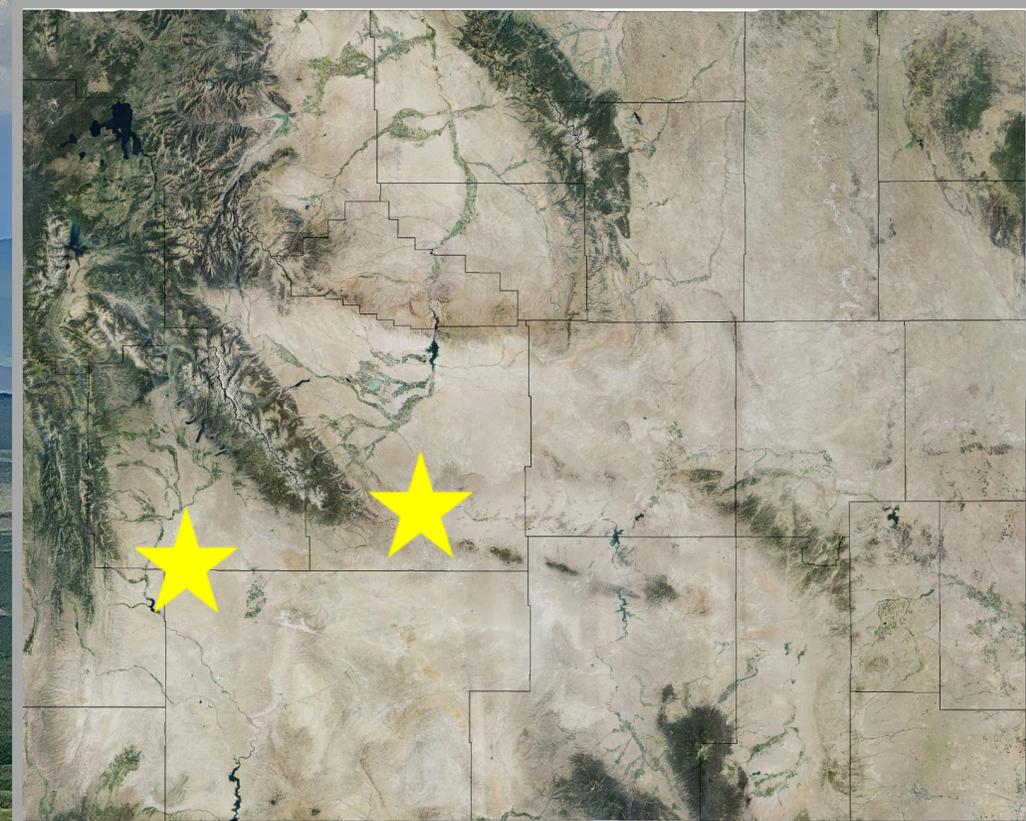
2025 WYNDD Field Projects

Beaver Rim Phlox (*Phlox pungens*)

G3/S3



- Genetic comparison of two morphotypes (Dr. Ferguson, Dr. Mayfield of KSU and Dr. Waselkov, Andy Cabrera of CSU-Fresno)
- Consequences for distribution and conservation- Wyoming endemic
- Surveying and mapping unverified locations, threat updates



Green River Basin



Wind River Basin

Wind Cave (WICA) NP Floristic Survey

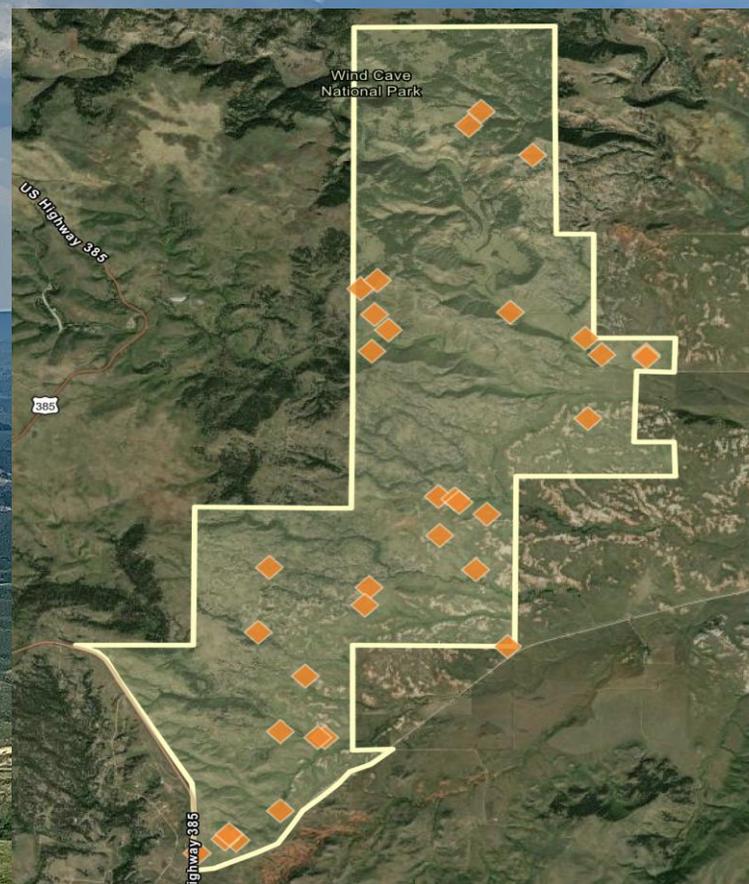


- Targeted surveys to fill gaps at Sanson Ranch addition (2011)
- Habitat types less common to the rest of WICA
 - Calcareous mountain mahogany shrubland
 - Natural springs and draws
- Preliminary results already valuable to management

African mustard
(*Strigosella africana*)



Frenchman's Bluff Moonwort
(*Botrychium gallicomontanum*)
G2/S1 SD



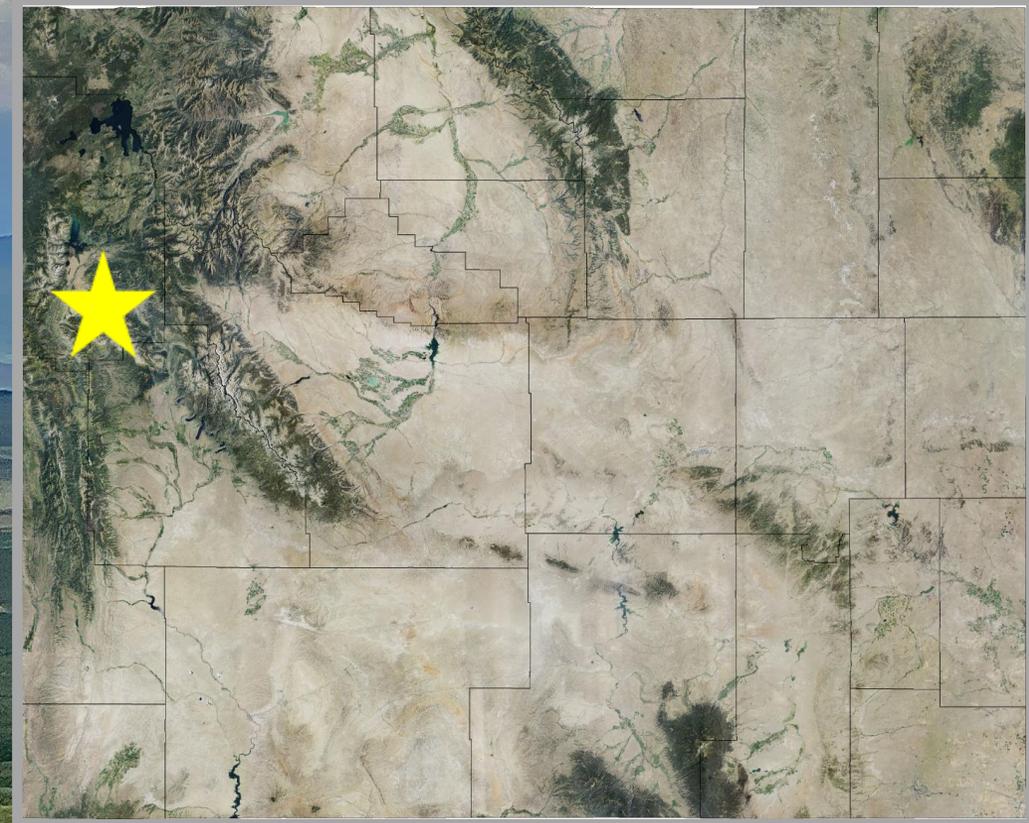
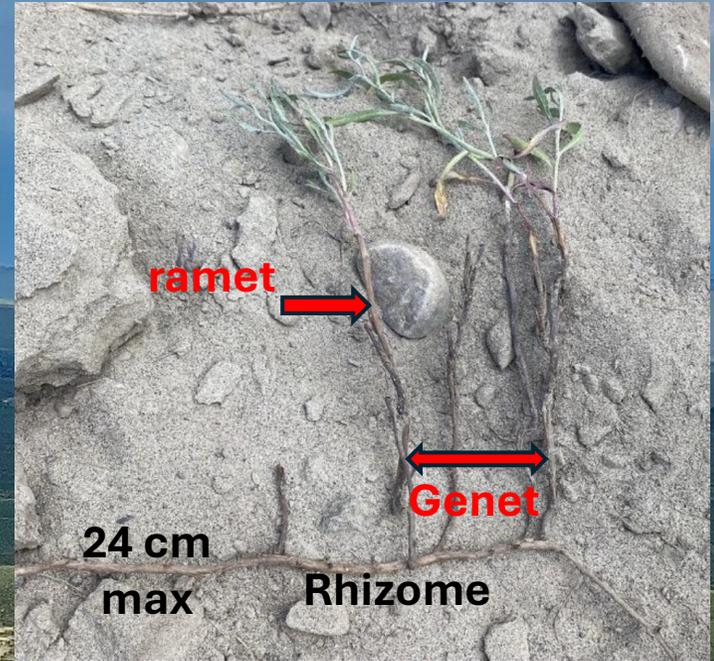
Teton wirelettuce

(*Stephanomeria fluminea*)

G2/S2



- Re-survey and census Markow 2003 sites (Heidel 2024)
- Detect trends and update distribution
- Map new sites on the Bridger Teton NF (Bloom 2024 and Wessel 2025)
- Rhizome study



Bridger-Teton Historical SCC Surveys



- Re-survey historical (>10 yrs old) locations of potential Species of Conservation Concern
 - Many were nearly 20 yrs old
- Surveyed for 8 species, 11 sites, 4 districts
- Found 6 species- some new locations
- Mapped & censused populations, recorded threats
- New moonwort (moosewort)!- Ben Legler



Astragalus terminalis



Carex concinna



Botrychium tunux



Silene repens



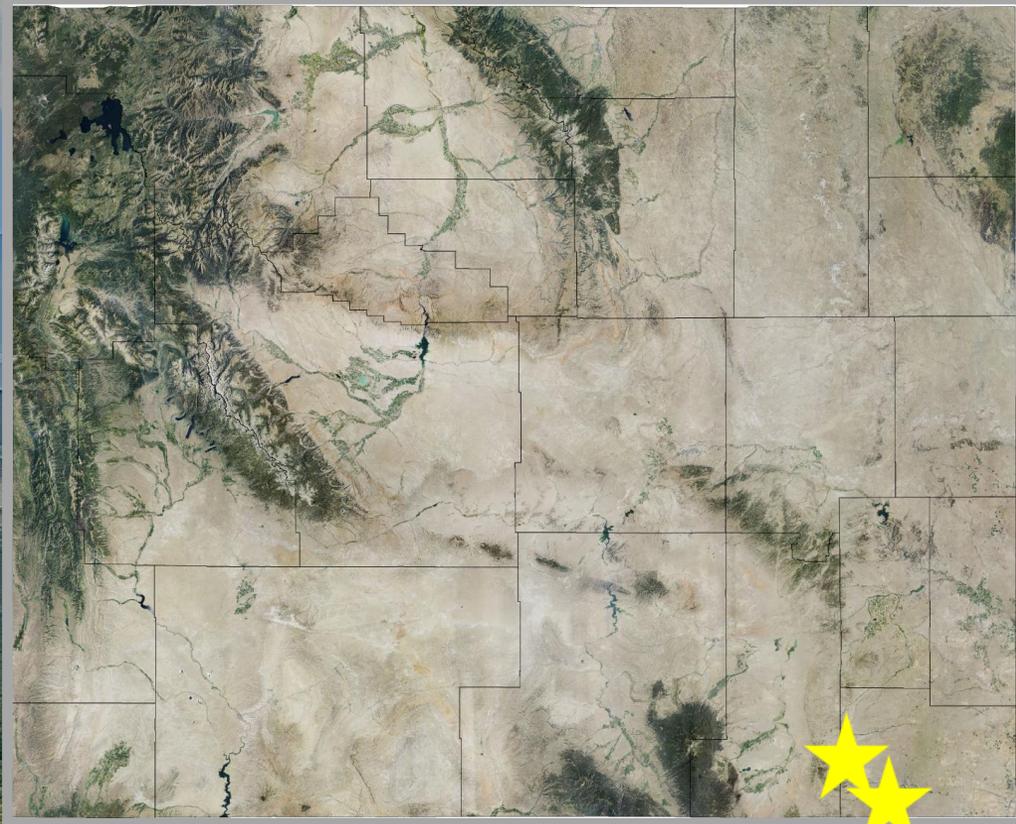
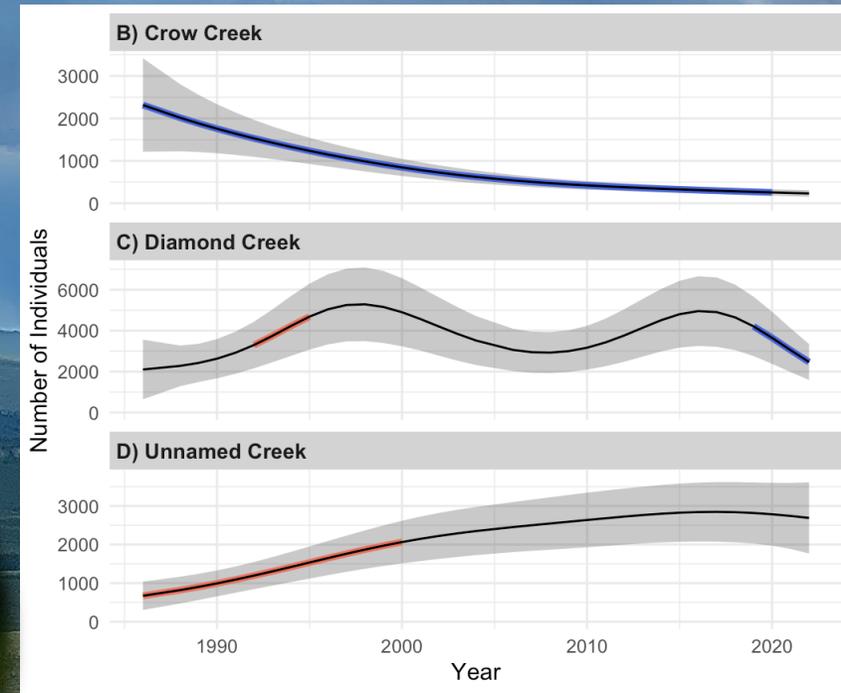
Chris
Folsom



Colorado Butterfly Plant (*Oenothera coloradensis*) G3/S2S3



- 38th year of census counts at F.E. Warren AFB!!!
- Long-term look at population trends across 3 creeks- decline
- Re-located a small population of Ute ladies' tresses (G2G3/S2) first discovered by Heidel in 2023
 - Only 5 plants in 2025! Could be dormant



Colorado butterfly plant



Ute ladies' tresses

WYNDD Invert Program Botany Projects

Dr. Lusha Tronstad's Team



Lusha



Michelle
Weschler

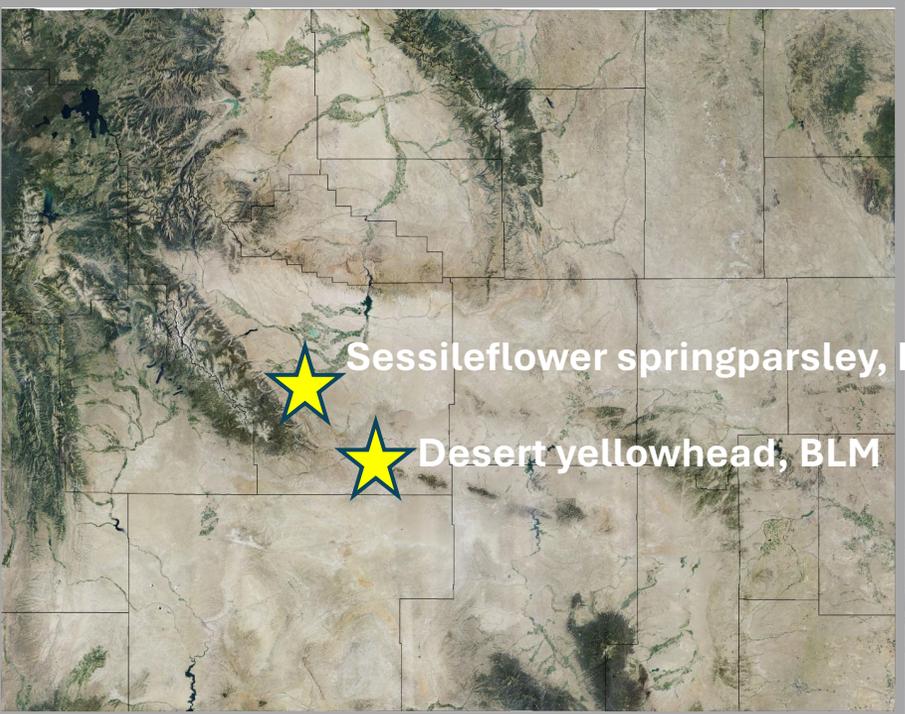


Austin
Madson

Reproduction of Desert yellowhead (*Yermo xanthocephalus*):
examining how climate and pollination alter population
trends, seed set, and sexual and asexual reproduction



By Michelle Weschler, Joy Handley, Bryan Tronstad, Tresize Tronstad and Lusha Tronstad
Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming 82070



Cover Story

Article: Using Species Distribution Modeling to Guide Surveys for a Rare Plant (*Cymopterus sessiliflorus*):
Climate and Landscape Variables Predict Potential Distribution

Michelle L. Weschler, Joy Handley, Katrina A. Cook, Bryan P. Tronstad and Lusha M. Tronstad

Environments 2026, 13(1), 32; DOI: [10.3390/environments13010032](https://doi.org/10.3390/environments13010032)



Border Species Surveys, Gov ESA

Bridger Teton SCC, USFS

Seedbanking Species at Risk of
Fire, CPC

Caribou-Targhee SCC, USFS

Beaver Rim Phlox, BLM

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF, USFS

Ashley NF SCC, USFS

Mount Rushmore
Botrychium, NPS

Wind Cave NP Flora, NPS

2026

WYNDD Field Projects

Colorado Butterfly Plant, FWS

Ute ladies' tresses, FWS

Botany Core Products

308,659 Vascular Plant
Records

456 Species of Concern

514 Field Guide Accounts

74 Species Distribution
Models

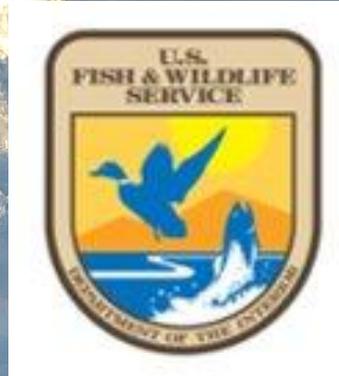


**SPECIAL SESSION: Wyoming's Most
Wanted Plants**

2-3PM

Zoom link in Meeting Agenda

Thank you for your support!



**Botanical Inquiries?
Rare Plant sightings?
swessel1@uwyo.edu**