

## 5.6 APPENDIX F – BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED, AND SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES

### WEST FORK BLACK FORK ALLOTMENT

### WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST

Appendix XI of the Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest provides a list of plants of Federal and State Status.

No plant taxon is listed as Endangered for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

The only plants listed as threatened are Maguire's primrose (*Primula maguieri*) and Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). Maguire's primrose is restricted to Logan Canyon in the Wasatch Range. Ute ladies'-tresses is not known from above about 7,200 ft elevation in the Uinta Mountains. Lowest elevation of West Fork Blacks Fork Allotment is above 9,000 ft. or about 2,000 ft above the potential range of Ute ladies'-tresses. Based on this information a determination of no effect is made for Threatened and Endangered plant species.

Of the species listed in Table XI – 1 in Appendix XI as Sensitive, or with other status, the following are known on or might be expected (based on potential habitat) on the West Fork Blacks Fork Allotment.

Spruce wormwood (*Artemisia norvegica* var. *piceetorum*)  
Clustered lady's slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*)  
Rockcress draba [*Draba globose* (*D. densifolia* var. *apiculata*)]  
Utah Ivesia (*Ivesia utahensis*)  
Arctic poppy (*Papaver radicum* ssp. *kluanense*, *P. uintaense*)

Alpine cinquefoil (*Potentilla pensylvanica* var. *paucijuga*) is excluded from this discussion because this name is treated in synonymy under another species by both Welsh et al. (2003) and Cronquist et al. 1997) as well as USDA, NRCS (2006).

The above listed species are discussed individually as follows.

Spruce wormwood (Recommended Sensitive).

This taxon is placed in synonymy by Cronquist (1994) and USDA, NRCS (2006). The uncertain status of this taxon indicates it should not be recommended for sensitive status.

Despite the taxonomic status of this plant, there are other reasons for low concern. Spruce wormwood is locally common on alpine areas of the allotment. It is often associated with disturbance of pocket gophers (Willard 1979). It is known with considerable abundance concurrent with permitted livestock on this allotment and other areas in the Uinta Mountains. Number of populations and size of populations indicate this is a stable plant in these mountains (Goodrich 2005). Distribution, abundance, and biology of this plant indicate no impact from permitted livestock grazing.

#### Clustered lady's slipper (Sensitive)

Since this plant is found in coniferous forests, there appears to be potential habitat for it on West Fork Blacks Fork Allotment. However, this plant has not been found here after several botanical surveys on this allotment. The plant has persisted in relative high abundance concurrent with permitted livestock grazing in the Little Brush Creek and Cart Creek drainages of the Uinta Mountains. These factors indicate no impact.

#### Rockcress draba (Sensitive)

This is scattered across much of the alpine of the Uinta Mountains. This indicates potential for it on this Allotment. However, this plant is most common along the crest of these mountains in areas above glaciation. Most of the area grazed by livestock on this allotment is glaciated. If present on the allotment it is most likely to be found in areas of difficult access. There is no indication that livestock would seek this plant out as forage. Both the habitat and the habit of the plant indicate no impact to this species on this allotment.

#### Utah Ivesia (Recommended Sensitive)

This plant is known at the margin of the allotment. The known population and other potential areas are of difficult access to livestock. Comparatively little use is made of these areas by livestock. The plant is most abundant in areas of comparatively sparse cover of other plants. This indicates it does not do well under competition with graminoids or shrubs. This indicates light and moderate use by livestock would not be detrimental to soil conditions favored by the plant. There is no indication that livestock seek this plant out as forage. A monitoring study placed in a population of this plant on the allotment indicates a sustainable population.

#### Arctic poppy (Sensitive)

This plant is known toward the margin of the allotment near Red Knob Pass. At this location as at most other locations in the Uinta Mountains, this plant is found in talus and other areas of difficult access for livestock. The known population is not (or rarely) accessed by livestock of this allotment. Other potential habitat on the allotment and adjacent to the allotment (Dead Horse Pass and associated ridges) have been surveyed for the plant. It was not found there. These surveys and the habitat of the plant both indicate no impact by grazing on this allotment.

Based on the above discussion of individual species a determination of no impact to sensitive plant species is made for the propose action for the West Fork Blacks Fork Allotment.

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