

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <i>Penstemon absarokensis</i> / Absaroka Beardtongue			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A	<p>Absaroka Beardtongue is a state endemic restricted to the Absaroka Range in Park County, Wyoming, on the Shoshone National Forest.</p> <p>This species is found on loose, volcanic, rocky soils and scree along sparsely vegetated slopes, rocky ridges, and creek bottoms at 5,920 to 10,000 feet. Plants usually occur on very barren, steep slopes with little competition from other vegetation. Its habitat is discontinuous and its geographic distribution is highly limited.</p> <p>Note: An isolated population from the northeast Wind River Range in Fremont County (within Region 2 boundaries but outside national forest boundaries) may represent a different, undescribed taxon according to Dorn (1989).</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clark et al. 1989</li> <li>• Dorn 1989, 2001</li> <li>• Evert 1984, 1986</li> <li>• Fertig 1997, 1998, 2000</li> <li>• Jones and Fertig 1999a, b</li> <li>• Marriott 1988</li> <li>• Mills and Fertig 1996, 2000</li> <li>• Rosenthal 1998, 1999</li> <li>• University of Wyoming 1998</li> <li>• Welp et al. 2000</li> </ul>
2 Distribution outside R2	A	<p>Absaroka Beardtongue is a Wyoming state endemic. It is known only from the Absaroka Range of northwest Wyoming in Park County.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -</li> </ul>
3 Dispersal Capability	D	<p>Dispersal vectors are unknown.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -</li> </ul>
4 Abundance in R2	BD	<p>Twenty occurrences are currently known, all of which have been observed since 1984 (12 have been surveyed since 1996). Eighteen of these populations are on the Shoshone National Forest. Dorn recognized only 2 extensive populations in his 1989 status survey for the US Fish and Wildlife Service with population numbers exceeding 2000 individuals (on the Shoshone NF). More recent fieldwork by Fertig suggests that this species may be more abundant, numbering in the range of 8000-15000. Many populations are exceedingly small and restricted to areas of suitable micro-habitat. This species is ranked "S2" in Wyoming.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dorn 1989</li> <li>• Fertig 1997, 1998</li> <li>• Mills and Fertig 2000</li> <li>• University of Wyoming 1998</li> <li>• USDA Forest Service 2001</li> <li>• WYNDD 2002</li> </ul>

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5 Population Trend in R2	D	Population size may vary from year to year based on moisture availability, but long-term trends have not been studied.  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dorn 1989</li> <li>• Fertig 1997, 1998</li> <li>• Mills and Fertig 2000</li> </ul>
6 Habitat Trend in R2	D	Not known.  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -</li> </ul>
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	DB	Most populations are unthreatened due to the ruggedness of their habitat. Populations near trails may be impacted by recreational activities and competition from weeds. It remains to be determined whether this species can persist in such sites or is actually able to colonize disturbed areas. Absaroka Beardtongue occurs in the Washakie and North Absaroka wilderness areas and on lands managed for multiple use by the Shoshone National Forest, BLM Cody Field Office, and the Wind River Indian Reservation.  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clark et al. 1989</li> <li>• Dorn 1989, 2001</li> <li>• Evert 1984, 1986</li> <li>• Fertig 1997, 1998, 2000</li> <li>• Marriott 1988</li> <li>• Mills and Fertig 1996, 2000</li> <li>• Rosenthal 1998, 1999</li> <li>• University of Wyoming 1998</li> <li>• Welp et al. 2000</li> </ul>
8 Life History and Demographics	D	Absaroka Beardtongue is a perennial forb. Flowering and fruiting occur from June through July.  Additional information on the species, including life history stages, population structure, longevity, mortality, and seed biology, are not available.  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
Initial Evaluator(s): Joy Handley, Bonnie Heidel and Scott Laursen			Date: April 22, 2002

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National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY(L)<sup>1</sup> to occur:

<u>Colorado NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF			Cimmaron NG			Samuel R. McKelvie NF			Black Hills NF			Shoshone NF	X	
White River NF						Halsey NF			Buffalo Gap NG			Bighorn NF		
Routt NF						Nebraska NF			Ft. Pierre NG			Black Hills NF		
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF						Ogalala NG						Medicine Bow NF		
San Juan NF												Thunder Basin NG		
Rio Grande NF														
Pike-San Isabel NF														
Comanche NG														

Literature cited

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Fertig, W. 1998. The status of rare plants on Shoshone National Forest: 1995-97 survey results. Report prepared by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

<sup>1</sup> Likely is defined as more likely to occur than not occur on the National Forest or Grassland. This generally can be thought of as having a 50% chance or greater of appearing on NFS lands.

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