

SPECIES: Scientific [common]	<i>Symphyotrichum molle</i> [Soft aster] (<i>Aster mollis</i>)
Forest:	Bridger-Teton National Forest
Forest Reviewer:	R.Lehman
Date of Review:	5/20/20; 3/28/21
Forest concurrence (or recommendation if new) for inclusion of species on list of potential SCC: (Enter Yes or No)	No

FOREST REVIEW RESULTS:

1. The Forest concurs or recommends the species for inclusion on the list of potential SCC:
Yes ___ No X
2. Rationale for not concurring is based on (check all that apply):
Species is not native to the plan area _____
Species is not known to occur in the plan area X_____
Species persistence in the plan area is not of substantial concern _____

FOREST REVIEW INFORMATION:

1. Is the Species Native to the Plan Area? Yes___ NoX?_

If no, provide explanation and stop assessment.

Occurs on lands managed by Bighorn National Forest and the BLM Buffalo, Casper, and Worland Field Offices. A report from the Bridger-Teton National Forest needs confirmation. (WYNDD 2020)

2. Is the Species Known to Occur within the Planning Area? Yes___ NoX?_

If no, stop assessment.

Table 1. All Known Occurrences, Years, and Frequency within the Planning Area

Year Observed	Number of Individuals	Location of Observations (USFS District, Town, River, Road Intersection, HUC etc.)	Habitat Description	Source of Information¹
8/18/1922 (Historical, not confirmed)	Unknown	U.S.A., Wyoming, Sublette County: Hoback River Canyon. 43.2515° N, 110.4984° W; NAD 83, uncertainty 2 mi., Digital Map	Dryer slopes. Phenology: flowering & fruiting. Elev. 6400-6600 ft.	Edwin B. Payson, 3067. with Lois B. Payson (Rocky Mountain Herbarium 2020; SEINet 2020)

¹The Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria (Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria 2020) was also searched, and no additional occurrences on the Bridger-Teton National Forest were found.

a. Are all Species Occurrences Only Accidental or Transient?

Yes___ No___

If yes, document source for determination and stop assessment.

b. For species with known occurrences on the Forest since 1990, based on the number of observations and/or year of last observation, can the species be presumed to be established or becoming established in the plan area?

Yes___ No___

If no, provide explanation and stop assessment

N/A—No known occurrences have been documented since 1990.

c. For species with known occurrences on the Forest predating 1990, does the weight of evidence suggest the species still occurs in the plan area?

Yes___ No X

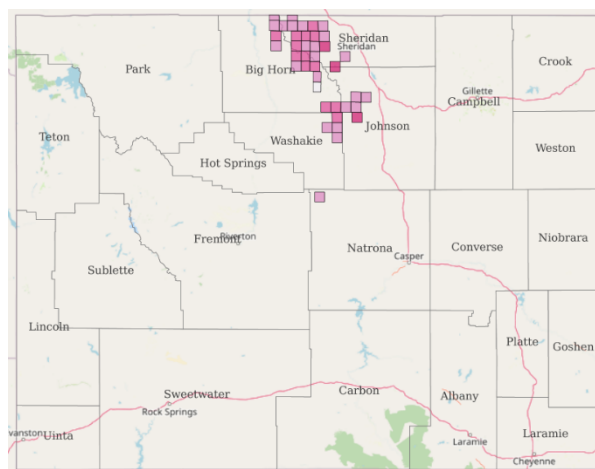
Provide explanation for determination

The only occurrence on the Forest was documented in 1922 and this is in question (WYNDD 2020).

If determination is no, stop assessment

Species is endemic to the Big Horn Range (not on BTNF) and immediately adjoining Montana. There are unresolved specimen questions including this one collection (WYNDD 2020).

Map 1, *Symphotrichum molle* range in Wyoming (WYNDD 2020).



3. Is There Substantial Concern for the Species' Capability to persist Over the Long-term in the Plan Area Based on Best Available Scientific Information?

Table 2. Status summary based on existing conservation assessments

Entity	Status/Rank (include definition)
NatureServe Global Status	<p>G3—Vulnerable</p> <p><i>At moderate risk of extinction or elimination due to a fairly restricted range, relatively few populations or occurrences, recent and widespread declines, threats, or other factors.</i></p>
NatureServe State Status	<p>S3— Vulnerable</p> <p><i>At moderate risk of extinction or elimination in the jurisdiction due to a fairly restricted range, relatively few populations or occurrences, recent and widespread declines, threats, or other factors.</i></p>
WYNDD	<p>Plant Species of Potential Concern</p> <p><i>Species that appear to be secure at present, but because they have limited distribution as regional or state endemics they could become vulnerable under large-scale changes. Species with this status warrant periodic checks (Wyoming Natural Diversity Database - Species of Concern)</i></p>
USDA Forest Service	<p>Region 4: Sensitive Species</p> <p><i>Those plant and animal species identified by a Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by</i></p> <p><i>a. Significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density.</i></p> <p><i>b. Significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.</i></p> <p>(FSM 2670.5 – Threatened, Endangered & Sensitive Species)</p>
USDOI FWS	Not listed
USDOI BLM	Not listed
IUCN	Not listed

Sources: WYNDD 2020; Heidel 2018; USDA Forest Service Regions 4 Sensitive Species Lists; NatureServe 2020

Table 3. Status summary based on best available scientific information.

Criteria	Rationale
Distribution on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	
Distribution outside the Bridger-Teton National Forest	
Abundance on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	
Population Trend on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	
Habitat Trend on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	
Threats to the Species and its Habitat on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	
Life history and demographic characteristics of the species	<p>Rhizomatous perennial. Stems ascending to erect, 30–60 cm. Herbage pubescent to sericeous. Leaves basal and cauline; blades oblanceolate, 1–5 cm long, entire; the lower petiolate. Inflorescence leafy-paniculate with several heads; peduncles pubescent. Involucre campanulate, 7–9 mm high; phyllaries spreading, oblanceolate, pubescent, green above, white below; inner narrower. Rays 20 to 35, violet; ligules 12–20 mm long. Disk flowers 35 to 70, yellow; corollas 5–7 mm long. Achenes cylindric, 2–4 mm long, hairy (Montana Field Guide 2020). Habitat is identified as deep, calcareous soils on sagebrush grasslands, mountain meadows, limestone outcrops, and edges of aspen (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>) or pine woodlands (NatureServe 2020).</p>
Date: May 11, 2020 Reviewer: L. Chipman	

Summary and Recommendations

References

- Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria. 2019. Specimen data search. Available at: <http://pnwherbaria.org>.
- Google Earth Pro, 2020. Aerial photo and mapping analysis. Software version 7.3.2.5776 (64-bit).
- Heidel 2018. Plant Species of Potential Concern. Available at: <http://www.uwyo.edu/wyndd/species-of-concern/plants/index.html#SOPC>.
- NatureServe. 2020. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Internet website: <http://explorer.natureserve.org>.
- Rocky Mountain Herbarium Specimen Database. 2020 University of Wyoming, Department of Botany. Laramie, WY. Internet website: <http://rmh.uwyo.edu/data/search.php>. Accessed on January 21, 2020.
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- Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNND). 2020. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database; Data Explorer. Laramie, WY: University of Wyoming.
- Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming. *Symphotrichum molle* - soft aster. Wyoming Field Guide. Retrieved on May 20, 2020, from <http://fieldguide.wyndd.org/?species=symphotrichummolle>
- Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. 2019. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database; Data Explorer. Laramie, WY: University of Wyoming.