

Oxytropis nana Nutt., a Wyoming endemic collected by Thomas Nuttall on his journey across Wyoming in 1834

WYOMING NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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Treasurer's Report - Balance as of October 15, 1985: $432.09; deposits $49.50; disbursements $42.17 (address labels $6.19, newsletter printing $11.98, dues overpayment refund $2.00, stamps $22.00); new balance as of February 20, 1986: $439.42. RD

Annual Scholarship - No applications were received for the scholarship which was approved at the last annual meeting. RD

1986 Annual Meeting - The weekend of June 28 conflicts with an International Conference in Boulder so our choices for the annual meeting are July 4-6 (Fri.-Sun.) or July 12-14 (Sat.-Mon.). The flowering season for the rare plants in the Flaming Gorge area runs from late May to mid August so we can't possibly see them all in flower. The rest of June is usually too early for many of the plants we want to see. The two July weekends will pick up the most in flower if conditions are not too dry or earlier than average. The first weekend incorporates a holiday, but we would have to compete with more people than usual. The second weekend increases the chances of it being excessively dry so that we won't see as many of the earlier flowering plants in good condition. If you have a preference, let me know. Some of the things we expect to see were listed by Ann Aldrich in the newsletter labeled Volume 4, Number 1 but without a date. Final details will appear in the next newsletter, probably in May. RD

Election - We will need candidates for President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Board Member by the next newsletter. We would like volunteers so we can avoid as much as possible making many direct contacts with members scattered throughout Wyoming and other states. Duties are minimal: President presides at annual meeting, Vice-President fills in when President is absent, Secretary-Treasurer keeps minutes of meeting, membership records, and financial records. Let me know soon if you are willing to run for office and save us lots of extra work. RD

Missing Issue - Thanks to all who wrote or called concerning the newsletter issue that was missing in our records. We now have a complete set. RD

Meet Aven Nelson - A short time ago an author friend of mine brought to me a book that his publisher had given him. He showed it to me and said I might be interested in reading it. It was entitled Aven Nelson of Wyoming by Roger L. Williams. Having obtained my botanical start mounting specimens in the Rocky Mountain Herbarium and preparing the cases for their move to the Aven Nelson Building, I was indeed interested.

According to the dust cover, the author is a professional historian and an amateur botanist. His insight into what would interest a fellow botanist and his ability to present the facts that illuminate not only Aven Nelson but the whole field of western botany of the late 19th and early 20th century is superb.

The book did not disappoint me. I found it fascinating from the start. I learned why Nelson was a splitter at first and that he later retreated from that position to a more moderate outlook. The personalities of Nelson's contemporaries are brought out as they relate to the development of Nelson as a botanist. I gained insight into the reasons for the long lists of synonyms of many of our species. Rydberg is no longer "Rydb." and "Greene" is something more than some letters after a plant name. I certainly gained a great deal of admiration for a man who could teach himself botany to the point of arguing with the "experts" and eventually become the authority on Rocky Mountain flora.

Certainly anyone interested in the history of botany in the state of Wyoming will gain from reading this book. Anyone disposed to look kindly on Dr. Nelson or the field of botany will find it absorbing reading. There must be some flaws or weak points in the book, but I am not knowledgeable enough to pick them out; so I will leave that job to others.

One task Nelson left undone was to make botany available and interesting to lay people. Perhaps the Wyoming Native Plant Society could aid in furthering that effort. DD

Some Notable Collections for 1985 - Two new state records Ophioglossum vulgatum from Yellowstone Park, reported in the last issue, and Carex livida from the Cathedral Cliffs Wetland were taken. The collection of Carex livida represents the first collection in the Rockies south of northern Montana and Idaho of this boreal species of wet calcareous places. This boosts the total of known new state records from this extraordinary wetland to 8 vascular plant species. Orchis rotundifolia known previously only from the immediate vicinity of the Cathedral Cliffs was found to be frequent about 5 miles east of there along Camp Creek in the Shoshone National Forest. However, this site did not support any of the other remarkable disjuncts that are so common at the Cathedral Cliffs site. See Vol. 4, No. 3 of the Newsletter.

The year seemed to be a good one for certain rare grasses in the North Fork Shoshone River area. Calamagrostis scopulorum, Stipa pinetorum, Helictotrichon hookeri, and Festuca altiaca had all for the most part escaped my attention until last year. The latter three grasses were growing at high altitudes on tundra. All four are seldom collected species in the state, with the first two mentioned species probably less frequently collected than the latter two.

Seldom collected graminoids figured prominently in field work conducted in Sheridan and Teton Counties. In the Story area in Sheridan County, Festuca occidentalis, Melica subulata, Carex torreyi, and Carex tenera were collected. Non-graminoid species of interest from the same area were Pyrola picta and Hieracium canadense. Also of interest from Sheridan County was the collection of Picea glauca at Preacher Rock Bog. Several collections of both Melica subulata and Bromus vulgaris were obtained in the Teton Canyon area in Teton County. Both of these species as well as Festuca occidentalis were also collected in Yellowstone Park during the annual meeting excursions. The B. vulgaris collections apparently represent the first collections of this species in the state since it was collected last at Teton Pass by Merrill and Wilcox in 1901. Listera caurina, Astragalus molybdenus, Cryptogramma stelleri, and Asplenium viride were also of interest from the west slope of the Tetons.

Also of interest from Wyoming was the collection of Haplopappus macronema from the Absarokas southwest of Cody. This shrubby species of infrequent distribution in the state (Gros Ventre River and Yellowstone Park) was something of a surprise at timberline on Ishawooa Mesa, after having seen it only a few weeks before on the sandy beach of Yellowstone Lake near the mouth of Pelican Creek.

Finally, I would like to mention a site that I found in Montana--not too far north of the Wyoming line--on the western flanks of the Absarokas at Pine Creek Campground south of Livingston that has, what appears for the Yellowstone region at least, an unusual association of species. Here on a wet, north-facing slope south of the campground is an impressive fernery dominated by a wall-to-wall growth of Gymnocarpium dryopteris, Dryopteris assimilis, and Athyrium filix-femina, somewhat reminiscent of the association at the mouth of Cascade Canyon in the Tetons but even more reminiscent of associations in much more northerly regions of Montana and Idaho. Additional interesting species found at this site included Viola canadensis, Circaea alpina, the eastern Carex sprengelii, and the elusive Bromus vulgaris. EFE

Apparent State Records for 1985 - The following species, all introductions, were collected in 1985. Crook Co. - Amaranthus californicus, Rhamnus frangula, Viburnum lantana, Berberis thunbergii; Laramie Co. - Centaurium pulchellum, Fumaria officinalis; Sweetwater Co. - Reseda lutea. RD

Botanical Novelties - Both of the following endemics have recently been reported from northern Colorado so they may no longer be restricted to Wyoming.

Eriogonum acaule Nutt. Stemless Wild Buckwheat

This mat-forming wild buckwheat produces cushions covered with tiny yellow flowers. It is known from Albany, Carbon, Sweetwater, Fremont, Sublette, Lincoln, and Uinta counties where it grows on exposed rocky ridges and slopes, and flowers in the spring and early summer. The plants seldom grow over about 2 inches above the soil surface. The flowers are scattered among the tiny leaves. The mats are usually less than 10 inches across. It was first collected by Thomas Nuttall in 1834 "On the summit of the Rocky Mountains, near the Colorado of the West, at the highest land" (= near South Pass). Nuttall did not describe the species until 1848 when it appeared in the Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences. This plant is another good example of the matted growth form common in the high deserts of Wyoming.

Haplopappus wardii (Gray) Dorn Ward Goldenweed

This member of the sunflower family grows on barren selenium soils in Albany, Carbon, and Natrona counties. It accumulates large amounts of selenium, but apparently it is unpalatable as ranchers in the area have indicated that they have no poisoning problems from it. The flower heads have no ray flowers, only yellow disk flowers. The heads are somewhat hidden among the narrow, strap-shaped leaves. The plants average about 10-12 inches high. It was first collected in 1881 by a paleontologist, Lester F. Ward. The location was simply given as "Wyoming." Asa Gray described it in 1884 as a variety of Haplopappus fremontii, a species from southeast Colorado and adjacent Kansas. In 1891 Otto Kuntze transferred it to the genus Aster as a species, and in 1896 E. L. Greene transferred the species to the genus Oonopsis. Harvey Hall gave it subspecies status under Haplopappus fremontii in 1928, and it was transferred as a species to the genus Haplopappus in 1977. Greg Brown (UW) gives the genus Oonopsis about a 60 percent chance of again being accepted once the necessary biosystematic studies are completed. RD

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BLM, Forest Service Land Interchange Proposal Brings Changes in Wyoming

The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service transmitted to Congress a finalized proposal started more than a year ago to interchange 25 million surface acres of land between the two agencies plus transfer minerals management authority to the FS for the areas under FS jurisdiction.

In Wyoming, the proposal includes transferring 766,000 acres of BLM land to the FS and 1,228,000 acres of FS land to BLM. In addition, after the interchange, in subsurface acres or mineral estate, the BLM would administer 22,879,000 acres and the FS 10,666,000 acres.

Because of the public response during the three formal public hearings held in Wyoming, several changes have been made since the original proposal.

The major change from the original proposal would have the Bighorn National Forest remain under the administration of the Forest Service. Secondly, the BLM Platte River Resource Area would remain in Casper rather than moving to Douglas. The FS office in Douglas would become a BLM Resourcec Area office. Finally, a BLM Resource Area office would remain in Buffalo.

The remainder of the proposal remains basically the same. The FS would assume management responsibility for BLM lands in extreme southwest Wyoming in the vicinity of the Wasatch National Forest and currently administered by the Evanston and Mountain View Ranger Districts, as well as land areas bordering the Bridger-Teton National Forest near Pinedale and currently part of the Pinedale Resource Area of the BLM Rock Springs District. This area comprises approximately 296,000 acres.

In central and eastern Wyoming, the FS would assume management responsibility for BLM Rawlins District lands in the vicinity of Bush Creek, Laramie and Hayden Ranger Districts of the Medicine Bow National Forest and along the Lander Ranger District of the Shoshone National Forest. In addition, small areas of the Casper BLM District along

the Wyoming-South Dakota state line and between the BLM's Worland District Cody Resource Area and the Clark's Fork Wapiti and Greybull Ranger Districts would transfer from the BLM to the FS. These areas include approximately 470,000 acres.

BLM would assume management responsibility on approximately 800,000 acres located in the Thunder Basin National Grasslands and Laramie Peaks Ranger Districts of the Medicine Bow National Forest. In western Wyoming the BLM would assume responsibility for approximately 90 percent of the Kemmerer and 50 percent of the Big Piney Ranger Districts, or approximately 435,000 acres. In Wyoming, savings would include $800,000 per year and 30 fewer positions than the current 2,000 in both BLM and FS.

Among the key points of the proposal are:

- Management of 14.8 million acres of land would transfer from the BLM to th FS;
- 9.4 million acres would transfer from the FS to BLM;
- Management of 204 million acres of federal mineral subsurface estate would transfer from BLM to FS;
- Each agency would adopt all recommendations for roadless and wilderness areas on lands transferred from the other;
- The interchange would have minimal impact on receipt sharing with states and local communities;
- Every town where office consolidations occur will retain an office;
- Personnel reductions will be achieved through normal attrition, with no layoffs expected.

Copies of the Wyoming summary as well as the national summary with details on the interchange and legislative proposal are available from FS and BLM offices in Wyoming.

DD = Don Despain
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