

## IDAHO RARE PLANT OBSERVATION REPORT 2013

Please fill in as many fields as possible, but don't worry if you have to leave blanks. Many fields contain check boxes (double click on box, and click 'checked'). E-mail completed form to [plant@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:plant@idfg.idaho.gov)  
If you need to mail maps or other materials that can't be sent electronically, send them to Botany Data Coordinator, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, PO Box 25, 600 S. Walnut St., Boise ID 83707-0025.  
Thanks for contributing to rare plant conservation in Idaho!

Species: *Astragalus purshii* var. *ophiogenes*

Date(s): April 11, 2013

Observer(s): Beth Corbin

Agency/Organization/Company: BLM Owyhee Field Office

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Observation was:  very thorough  fairly thorough  cursory or incidental

If this observation is part of a larger study or report, what is the study/report? Sinker Butte Allotment – Special Status Plant and other Vegetation Field Visit 4/15/2013

Certainty of identification:  moderate  high  verified by:

Specimen collector/Collection #: no

Photo attached?  yes  no If photos are located elsewhere, where are they? OFO Server

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### Population Information (for entire population; information on subpopulations goes on next page)

Survey site name (e.g., a particular landmark or location): Sinker Creek Butte

Element occurrence (EO) #, if known: #48

Population area (extent of all subpopulations): 5 small patches within about 200 acres

Do you feel you mapped the full extent of the population?  yes  no  unsure

Is there more potential habitat in the area that hasn't been surveyed?  yes  no  unsure

Suggestions for other areas to survey: It's likely there are other patches scattered all around on relatively shallow soil openings throughout the area.

Directions (please be specific so population/subpopulations can be relocated years from now by others):

Patches (subpopulations) are at the top of Sinker Creek Butte, on north, west, and southeast slopes of the butte, and along the edge of the Sinker Creek rim.

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### Subpopulation information (Copy this page and the next as needed—one for each subpopulation. If visits to individual subpopulations aren't made, fill out one for whole population.)

Subpopulation number #: 1

Date of Observation: April 11, 2013

Observer(s): Beth Corbin

Total number of individuals in subpopulation: 31

This number is:  actual  minimum  estimated

What was counted?  genets  ramets  N/A (non-vascular etc.)  unknown

Phenology-- % vegetative: 20 % late flower/early fruit: 80

Subpopulation area: Each patch <0.01 acre Subpopulation vigor:  excellent  good  fair  poor

Do you feel you mapped the full extent of this subpopulation?  yes  no  unsure

Dominant species (existing plant community): *Picrothamnus desertorum*, *Poa secunda*, *Bromus tectorum*

Habitat type (potential plant community): Mixed Wyoming sagebrush/ desert shrub communities

Associated native species: *Elymus elymoides*, *Atriplex confertifolia*, *Salvia dorrii*, *Eriogonum microthecum*, *Dalea ornata*, *Castilleja angustifolia* var. *dubia*, *Delphinium nuttallianum*, *Grayia spinosa*, *Tetradymia glabrata*, *Ericameria nauseosa*, *Achnatherum hymenoides*, *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*.

Associated non-native species: *Bromus tectorum*, *Salsola tragus*

Look-alike species present: None

General habitat (e.g., foothills, wetland, subalpine): Edges of gentle tablelands

Slope: 0-15% Aspect: all Toposition: Plateau top or edge

Elevation: 2780-3720\_ ft Light regime: full sun

Substrate/soil: Gravelly surface over loam, usually with good soil moss and lichen

Landowner(s):  BLM  USFS  private  other:

Observed disturbances, such as land use, disease, predation, non-native species. For each, include severity (slight, moderate, serious, or extreme) and scope ( $\leq 10\%$ , 11-30%, 31-70%, 71-100% of subpopulation affected), if known: Although within grazing allotment, no cattle grazing or trampling observed on plants or in microhabitat, and light use in surrounding areas. Cheatgrass is common to abundant, more so on deeper loamy soils outside of microhabitat, but also with ASPUO. No ATV or vehicle disturbance at or adjacent to patches. Several patches are within old (1980s) fire area, with more cheatgrass than elsewhere.

Factors that may be a threat in the future. For each, include severity, scope, and imminency (near or distant future), if known: Continued weeds (not imminent).

Native plant community within the subpopulation is:

- A. intact with zero to low non-native plant cover and/or minimal anthropogenic disturbance.
- B. intact with low to moderate non-native plant cover and/or low to moderate anthropogenic disturbance.
- C. partially intact with moderate to high non-native plant cover and/or mod. to high anthropogenic disturbance.
- D. almost gone with high non-native plant species cover and/or high anthropogenic disturbance.

Additional comments to describe subpopulation condition and support rank: Cheatgrass at most patches, but not dominant in microhabitat.

Landscape surrounding the subpopulation is:

- A. unfragmented, with ecological and hydrological processes intact.
- B. partially fragmented, with ecological and hydrological processes intact.
- C. moderately fragmented, with ecological and hydrological processes intact.
- D. highly fragmented, with many ecological and hydrological processes no longer intact.

Additional comments to describe landscape setting and support rank: Surrounding landscapes usually more weedy than microhabitat. Some low-level roads add to fragmentation.

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County: Owyhee

Quad: Sinker Butte

Township: 3S Range: 1W Section 12 NENW & SWNE

T.3S, R.1E, Sec 7 NWNE;

T.3S, R.1W, Sec 1 SESW

Format of GPS data:  shapefile  digital file (.dbf, .xls, .txt, etc.)  GPS points filled in below

Method used to collect GPS data:  GPS unit  estimated on a paper map  other:

GPS unit was held:  directly over the rare plant  in the general vicinity of the rare plant

Do the GPS points mark the boundary of a plant group?  yes  no  unsure

Accuracy of GPS unit ( $\pm$  m): 5 m Datum:  NAD27  NAD83  WGS84  unknown

Coordinate system:  UTM zone 11

GPS coordinates :

Patch	Easting (X)	Northing (Y)	# of Plants Seen	Associates
1	548200	4781276	10	PIDE,POSE,BRTE,ELEL
1a	548257	4781152	3	PIDE,POSE,BRTE,ATCO,ELEL,TEGL
2	548303	4781297	1	ATCO,PIDE,BRTE,POSE,ELEL
4	548744	4780872	7	ARTRW, SADO,ERMI,BRTE,POSE, DAOR,CAAND,DENU,GRSP
6	550188	4781226	3	TEGL,ERNA,PIDE,GRSP,POSE,ARTRW,BRTE
9	548009	4781682	7	POSE,BRTE,ELEL,DENU,ACHY,SATR

(Patch numbers correspond to field waypoint notes)

Note: Also visited locations for *Chaenactis stevioides* (Occ #19), *Glyptopleura marginata* (Occ #53), and *Psathyrotes annua* (Occ #9) in the vicinity, but it was either too early and/or more likely too dry this year for these annuals – none seen. Habitat looks undisturbed (except for cheatgrass) and suitable for these plants.