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REPORT ON THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF  
Erigeron lackschewitzii, A CANDIDATE THREATENED SPECIES

**Taxon Name:** Erigeron lackschewitzii Nesom and Weber

**Common Name:** Front Mountain Fleabane

**Family:** Asteraceae

**States Where Taxon Occurs:** Montana

**Current Federal Status:** USFWS Notice of Review, Category 2

**Recommended Federal Status:** USFWS Notice of Review, Category 2  
barring taxonomic revision

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This is an abridged report

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## 1. Classification and nomenclature.

## A. Species.

## 1. Scientific name.

- a. **Binomial:** Erigeron lackschewitzii Nesom and Weber
- b. **Full bibliographic citation:** Nesom, G. L. and W. A. Weber. 1983. A new woolly-headed, monocephalous Erigeron (Asteraceae) from Montana. Madrono 30 (4):245-249.
- c. **Type specimens:** Lackschewitz, K. H. 9101, 26 July 1979, USA, Montana, Flathead Co., Flathead Range, "North Wall" of continental divide, summit of mountain above Sock Lake. (Holotype: MONTU!; isotype: COLO!).

Lackschewitz, K. H. 8487,  
29 July 1978, USA, Montana, Teton Co.,  
Flathead Range, summit of Headquarters  
Pass. (Paratype: COLO, MONTU, NY).

2. **Pertinent synonyms:** Treated as synonymous with Erigeron ochroleucus in Dorn (1984).
3. **Common name:** Front Range fleabane.
4. **Taxon codes:** PDAST3M4F0 (Montana Natural Heritage Program); 8234 ERILAC (U. S. Forest Service, Region 1).
5. **Size of genus:** The Erigeron genus contains nearly 200 species, growing in temperate or boreal latitudes of North and South America, Europe and Asia, as well as mountainous areas of tropical America.

## B. Family classification.

1. **Family name:** Asteraceae.
2. **Pertinent family synonym:** Compositae.
3. **Common names for the family:** Aster Family, Sunflower Family.

- C. Major plant group: Dicotyledoneae.
- D. History of knowledge of taxon: The earliest known specimen is a recent collection (Lackschewitz 8487 29 July 1978, at the summit of Headquarters Pass, in the Flathead Range), deposited at the University of Colorado, University of Montana, and New York Botanical Gardens, representing the paratype collection. The type and paratype collections together represent a total of 18 plants, upon which the description is based. The species was named for its discoverer, Klaus Lackschewitz.
- E. Comments on current alternative taxonomic treatments: Primary taxonomic references for the Erigeron genus of the Pacific Northwest region (Hitchcock and Cronquist 1984) and of the country (Spongberg 1971) preceded description of Erigeron lackschewitzii. Dorn (1984) treated it as a synonym of E. ochroleucus. Nesom (1989, and pers. commun. to Kerstetter) has made a revision of his treatment which makes Erigeron lackschewitzii synonymous with E. ochroleucus.

Taxonomic research is being pursued as part of this status review, conducted by Tulli Kerstetter at Montana State University. A progress report of this work is submitted separately (Kerstetter 1993) and will be completed in 1994. The distinction between E. lackschewitzii and other related species may warrant differentiation at the variety level (Kerstetter pers. commun.). The published distinctions do not seem adequate in themselves for differentiating E. lackschewitzii. The study underway will review morphological distinctions, as well as:

- chloroplast DNA
- chromosome number
- isozyme analysis

Erigeron lackschewitzii material keys out to E. ochroleucus in the floristic references mentioned above. Other related taxa being studied include E. radicans, E. simplex, and tentatively E. grandiflorus.

A complete summary of Erigeron lackschewitzii taxonomic standing will be prepared in 1994 as an update to this report.

2. Present legal or other formal status.

A. International: None.

B. National.

1. United States.

a. Present designated or proposed legal protection or regulation: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Currently, the species is included in Category 2 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Notice of Review (U.S. Department of Interior 1990), under consideration for federal listing as a threatened or endangered plant species. Category 2 taxa are those "...for which information now in possession of the Service indicates that proposing to list them as endangered or threatened species is possibly appropriate, but for which substantial data on biological vulnerability and threat(s) are not currently known or on file to support the immediate preparation of rules." See I.E. regarding the taxonomic contingency to proposing listing.

b. Other current formal status: Erigeron lackschewitzii was on the first Region 1 Sensitive Plant list of the U.S. Forest Service as "Watch" based on its presence in two national forests and limited distribution, though without recognized threats (USDA 1988). The Watch criteria were redefined in the 1991 list revision, such that Watch species with low degrees of threat were excluded from consideration, including E. lackschewitzii (Lesica and Shelly 1991b). It is being tracked by the Lewis and Clark National Forest as a national forest species of concern because it is endemic, though it has no formal designation. The species is currently ranked as "threatened throughout its range, but having taxonomic questions a associated with it" (Nature Conservancy global rank = G2Q as assigned by the Montana Natural Heritage Program; Lesica and Shelly 1991a). This rank has no legal status.



## 2. State.

## a. Montana.

- i. Present designated or proposed legal protection or regulation: None.
- ii. Other current formal status recommendations: Erigeron lackschewitzii is currently ranked by the Montana Natural Heritage Program as "imperiled" at both global and state levels (global rank = G2; state rank = S2). These ranks do not provide any legal protection for E. lackschewitzii.
- iii. Review of past status: Previously listed as "rare in Montana" by the Montana Rare Plant Project (Lesica et al. 1984).

## 3. Description.

- A. General nontechnical description: Small herbaceous perennial with unbranched stems, most often solitary but also in clusters; arising from a long, woody taproot and often from secondary and tertiary branches above the taproot. Involucre conspicuously woolly, obscuring bracts of live plants but loosing this character when pressed. Ray flowers bluish pink, drying light brown or purple when pressed; rays consistently oblique to the plane of the disk. Stem leaves usually extending fully halfway up stem. Stem moderately covered by a combination of long ascending to spreading hairs and short appressed hairs (latter not mentioned by Nesom and Weber 1983). Phyllaries appear deeply reddish-purple tipped when pressed (Kerstetter pers. obs., Heidel pers. obs.). See Appendix A for photos.
- B. Technical description: Perennial herbs from a long, woody taproot with few or no branch or adventitious roots; caudex simple or with a few short (up to 2.5 cm long), thick branches to which old petiole bases may remain attached, each branch producing 1-5 stems. Stems 3.5-8 cm high, more or less ascending, unbranched, lanate-villous flattened and twisted trichomes, more sparsely pubescent near the base.

Basal leaves linear-oblongate to narrowly oblanceolate, 20-60 mm long, 1.2-3 mm wide, gradually narrowed to a petiolar region. Margins entire, cauline leaves 5-10 and similar to the basal leaves, slightly reduced upwards or not, extending fully halfway up the stem; leaves densely to sparsely pubescent with a mixture of spreading and appressed or ascending trichomes up to 3 mm long, long-ciliate near the petiole base. Heads solitary; involucre shallowly hemispheric, 12-17 mm wide (pressed), 6-8 mm high; phyllaries in ca. 3 equal series, herbaceous, green, often with a golden midvein, narrowly lanceolate with acuminate, loose or reflexed tips, 0.5-1 mm wide, 5-8 mm long, densely white-villous, the trichomes usually with blackish-purple crosswalls, at least near the base. Ray flowers fertile, 30-68 in 1(-2) series, apparently somewhat erect, 7.8-11.3 mm long, the tubular portion 1.8-2.5 mm long, conspicuously pubescent with both seriate and long uniseriate trichomes, ligules narrowly obovate, 1.6-3 mm wide, not reflexing or curling, drying light lilac to purple, 4-7 veined, the margins slightly inrolling, apex with 2-3 shallow to deep notches; style branches 0.8-1.1 mm long, partially included within the tube. Disk corollas yellow, tubular, slightly indurated, pubescent, lobes 0.6-0.9 mm long, erect; anther 0.7-1 mm long, with lanceolate apical appendages, style branches 0.7-1 mm long, including the deltate to shallowly triangular collecting appendages. Achenes oblong-obovate, radially compressed, tan, with 2 thin ribs, strigose with long, untwisted, duplex trichomes; carpodium of 5-7 rows of cuboidal cells with a lower, inner row of subsidiary cells' pappus of ray and disc flowers similar, of 15-24 relatively thick but extremely brittle bristles, ca. 3/4 as high as the disc corollas but somewhat uneven (from Nesom and Weber 1983).

- C. **Local field characters:** E. lackschewitzii differs from E. simplex in having basal leaves which are not spatulate and well-demarcated but are instead linear-oblongate to narrowly oblanceolate, and having only 30-68 ray flowers instead of 50-125. It also lacks conspicuously glandular trichomes (from Nesom and Weber 1983). In addition, E. simplex comes from a rhizome which is usually horizontal, while E. lackschewitzii is taprooted, and it is found in more protected sites than E. lackschewitzii (Kerstetter pers. commun.).

E. lackschewitzii is not compared with E. ochroleucus in the published literature but would be distinguished in the Hitchcock and Cronquist key in having multicellular hairs on the involucre, i.e. a trichome with crosswalls. Examination of E. ochroleucus specimens indicates presence of crosswalls, contradicting the keys (Kerstetter pers. commun., Lesica pers. commun.).

Similarly, both have basal leaves which are linear and with an enlarged membranous base, contradicting the keys.

E. lackschewitzii is consistently pinkish blue, while E. ochroleucus ranges in color from bluish purple to pink and to white. Likewise, the disk corolla length and the involucre bract length are usually different, with the dimensions of the E. lackschewitzii feature circumscribed in the wider range of E. ochroleucus features (Kerstetter pers. commun.). See Appendix A for a photograph of the two species growing side by side.

E. lackschewitzii is distinguished from E. radicans in having cauline leaves, larger disk corolla (2.8-4.3 vs. 2.3-3.0) and more pappus bristles (10-20 vs. 6-12); (from Hitchcock and Cronquist key)

- D. Identifying characteristics of material which is in interstate or international commerce or trade: None.
- E. Photographs and line drawings: Appendix A provides a copy of the technical illustration of Erigeron lackschewitzii, along with close-ups and habitat photographs.

#### 4. Significance.

- A. **Natural:** The community and landscape role of Erigeron lackschewitzii warrants investigation. Circumstantial evidence in its morphology and distribution pattern indicate that it may be uniquely suited to the alpine "wind community".
- B. **Human:** Erigeron lackschewitzii is among the few endemic alpine species in Montana, its narrow distribution and habitat overlapping with that of another endemic, Cardamine rupicola. Erigeron lackschewitzii has fidelity to a narrow range of

harsh alpine conditions and is a study in species adaptation. Other limestone substrate endemics in Montana are species of lower elevations. These species and their communities are subject for extended phytogeographic study as initiated by Bamberg and Major (1968). It has no known horticultural or economic uses at this time.

## 5. Geographical distribution.

- A. **Geographical range:** Erigeron lackschewitzii is currently known from a total of 12 sites in four counties of Montana (Teton, Flathead, Pondera and Lewis and Clark). Sites lie within ca. 45 miles north-south along the Front Range. Most sites have been documented east of the Continental Divide, but at least one site is located west of the Divide in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The range is depicted in Appendix D.

Potential habitat was identified in this study using the map of surface geology having the greatest detail (Mudge and Earhart 1977), focusing upon the Madison Group and Devonian formations containing dolomite. These formations are the prevalent surface geology from the easternmost edge of the Front Range westward to within a few miles of the Sun River (ca. 10 miles east-west; the majority outside of Bob Marshall Wilderness boundaries). Their presence further west is limited, and part is at lower elevation which are forested.

### B. Precise occurrences.

#### 1. Populations currently known to be extant.

Occurrence number: 001

Survey site: MOUNT WRIGHT

County: Teton  
 Latitude: 475833N Longitude: 1124959W Elevation: 7500  
 USGS quadrangle: MOUNT WR2IGHT  
 Township/range: Section: Additional/quarter sections:  
 026N010W 25 S2; 26 SE4

Initial discovery: 1982 Most recent observation: 1992-07-17

Directions: EAST FLANK OF MOUNT WRIGHT, EAST FRONT RANGE; NORTH OF TRAIL  
 IN SADDLE.

Occurrence number: 002

Survey site: HEADQUARTERS CREEK PASS/ROCKY MOUNTAIN

County: Teton  
 Latitude: 474915N Longitude: 1124822W Elevation: 7760  
 USGS quadrangle: OUR LAKE

Township/range: Section: Additional/quarter sections:  
 024N009W 19 E2; 30 NE4  
 Initial discovery: 1978 Most recent observation: 1989-08-10  
 Directions: ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT RANGE, HEADQUARTERS CREEK PASS AND WEST  
 SLOPE OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN.

Occurrence number: 003 Survey site: SOCK LAKE

County: Lewis and Clark, Flathead  
 Latitude: 474740N Longitude: 1130352W Elevation: 8200  
 USGS quadrangle: THREE SISTERS  
 Township/range: Section: Additional/quarter sections:  
 024N011W 31 NE4  
 Initial discovery: 1979 Most recent observation: 1979-07-26  
 Directions: FLATHEAD RANGE, "M WALL" OF CONTINENTAL DIVIDE, SUMMIT OF  
 MOUNTAIN ABOVE SOCK LAKE.

Occurrence number: 004 Survey site: CORRUGATE RIDGE

County: Teton, Flathead  
 Latitude: 480048N Longitude: 1125340W Elevation: 8000  
 USGS quadrangle: GATEWAY PASS  
 Township/range: Section: Additional/quarter sections:  
 026N010W 16 9  
 Initial discovery: 1983 Most recent observation: 1983-07-29  
 Directions: CORRUGATE RIDGE, ALONG CONTINENTAL DIVIDE ABOVE WEST SIDE OF  
 HEADWATERS OF BRUCE CREEK.

Occurrence number: 005 Survey site: MOUNT PATRICK GASS

County: Teton  
 Latitude: 480109N Longitude: 1125230W Elevation: 7800  
 USGS quadrangle: WALLING REEF  
 GATEWAY PASS  
 Township/range: Section: Additional/quarter sections:  
 026N010W 10 N2; 15 NE4  
 Initial discovery: 1983 Most recent observation: 1983-07  
 Directions: SOUTH FLANKS OF MOUNT PATRICK GASS, ON DIVIDE BETWEEN BRUCE  
 CREEK AND CRAZY CREEK.

Occurrence number: 006 Survey site: CROWN MOUNTAIN

County: Lewis and Clark  
 Latitude: 472224N Longitude: 1124535W Elevation: 7200  
 USGS quadrangle: SCAPEGOAT MOUNTAIN  
 Township/range: Section: Additional/quarter sections:  
 019N009W 28 NW4; 29 NE4  
 Initial discovery: 1986 Most recent observation: 1992-07-23  
 Directions: FRONT RANGE MOUNTAINS, SOUTH-FACING SLOPES OF CROWN MOUNTAIN  
 WEST OF THE PASS, ACROSS FROM PACK TRAIL.

Occurrence number: 007 Survey site: OUR LAKE

County: Teton  
 Latitude: 474947N Longitude: 1124840W Elevation: 8400  
 USGS quadrangle: OUR LAKE  
 Township/range: Section: Additional/quarter sections:  
 024N009W 18 W2

Initial discovery: 1986 Most recent observation: 1992-07-24

Directions: FRONT RANGE MOUNTAINS, CA. 25 MILES WEST OF CHOTEAU, ABOVE  
 OUR LAKE ON RIDGE NORTH OF HEADQUARTERS PASS AND ON SADDLE  
 SLOPES WEST OF OUR LAKE.

Occurrence number: 008 Survey site: TETON SKI AREA PEAK

County: Teton  
 Latitude: 475547N Longitude: 1124955W Elevation: 7960  
 USGS quadrangle: MOUNT WRIGHT  
 Township/range: Section: Additional/quarter sections:  
 025N010W 12 SE4

Initial discovery: 1989 Most recent observation: 1989-08-08

Directions: CA. 34 MILES WEST OF CHOTEAU, ON WEST SIDE OF PEAK ABOVE  
 TETON PASS SKI AREA.

Occurrence number: 009 Survey site: WASHBOARD REEF

County: Teton  
 Latitude: 475601N Longitude: 1125313W Elevation: 7920  
 USGS quadrangle: PORPHYRY REEF  
 Township/range: Section: Additional/quarter sections:  
 025N010W 10 NW4SW4

Initial discovery: 1992-07-25 Most recent observation: 1992-07-25

Directions: NORTH OF TRAIL 117 ON WASHBOARD REEF RIDGELINE; OVER 6 MILES  
 FROM WEST FORK TETON TRAILHEAD.

Occurrence number: 010 Survey site: SWIFT RIVER

County: Pondera  
 Latitude: 480838N Longitude: 1125112W Elevation: 6400  
 USGS quadrangle: FISH LAKE  
 Township/range: Section: Additional/quarter sections:  
 028N010W 35 N2NE4

Initial discovery: 1992-07-26 Most recent observation: 1992-07-27

Directions: ABOVE SWIFT RIVER RESERVOIR, 1.25 MILES SOUTHEAST OF DAM ON  
 RIDGE AT EAST EDGE OF FRONT RANGE.

Occurrence number: 011 Survey site: VOLCANO REEF

County: Teton  
 Latitude: 480116N Longitude: 1124315W Elevation: 6740  
 USGS quadrangle: VOLCANO REEF

Occurrence number: 011 (cont.)

Township/range: Section: Additional/quarter sections:  
026N009W 11 NE4SE4; 12 SW4SW4

Initial discovery: 1992-07-27 Most recent observation: 1992-07-27

Directions: VOLCANO REEF RIDGETOP AT EAST EDGE OF FRONT RANGE, NORTH OF  
BLACKLEAF CANYON.

Occurrence number: 012

Survey site: STEAMBOAT LOOKOUT

County: Lewis and Clark

Latitude: 471834N Longitude: 1123851W Elevation: 8280

USGS quadrangle: JAKIE CREEK

Township/range: Section: Additional/quarter sections:  
018N008W 17 S2

Initial discovery: 1992-07-28 Most recent observation: 1992-07-28

Directions: LOWER EAST END OF RIDGE DIRECTLY NORTH OF STEAMBOAT MOUNTAIN  
LOOKOUT, NORTH OF UNNUMBERED TRAIL TO LOOKOUT; OVER 6 MILES  
ABOVE TRAILHEAD ON ELK CREEK.

2. Populations known or assumed extirpated.
  - a. Montana: N/A
3. Historically known populations where current status is not known:
  - a. Montana: N/A
4. Locations not yet investigated believed likely to support additional natural populations: There is little or no further dolomite substrate farther east or south of known populations. Potential habitat extends northward into Badger-Two Medicine area stopping before Glacier National Park. Potential habitat which has not been investigated extends intermittently westward into Flathead National Forest within Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, though the largest area of potential habitat is within Lewis and Clark National Forest.
5. Reports having ambiguous or incomplete locality information:
  - a. Montana: N/A

6. Locations known or suspected to be erroneous reports:

a. Montana: N/A

C. Biogeographical and phylogenetic history:  
Contingent on taxonomic research underway

6. General environment and habitat description.

A. Concise statement of general environment and habitat: Erigeron lackschewitzii is a terrestrial plant which grows primarily in exposed alpine settings on calcareous soil derived from dolomite. It typically grows in association with intermittent mats of Dryas octopetala and as well as Artostaphylos uva-ursi. Carex rupestris is the dominant sedge between mats. In its driest habitat settings, E. lackschewitzii grows on barren slopes with only trace amounts of the associated species. At the moistest habitat settings, it grows in Carex rupestris turf with high forb diversity.

B. Physical characteristics.

1. Climate.

- a. **Koppen climate classification:** Type Dfb (cool temperate climate, with numerous summer thunderstorms), the climate type of the Rocky Mountains (Visher 1954).
- b. **Regional macroclimate:** The climate of the Front Range is typical of alpine settings in the short 30-50 day growing season (duration of frost-free days), and high mean annual precipitation of 40-60 inches. It differs from most other mountainous areas of the state in having a late time in the season during which soil recharge begins, July 20-August 8; coinciding with the flowering period of E. lackschewitzii (from Caprio and Nielsen 1992).
- c. **Local microclimate:** Quantitative data is not available on microclimate, but it seems to represent windy settings with high evapotranspiration, and relatively exposed sites which would be among the earliest to melt free of snow.



2. Air and water quality requirements: N/A
3. Physiographic province: Northern Rocky Mountains (Fenneman 1931)
4. Physiographic and topographic characteristics: Erigeron lackschewitzii was most frequently found on exposed alpine slopes having southwest aspect. Many of the sites are at or near topographic features which break wind velocity, including saddles, protruding outcrops, and crests of updraft chutes. The majority of sites lie along a single divide between the Sun River and Teton River drainages.

It grows on midslope settings often between scree and toeslope turf, or on gentle but highly exposed slope crests and ridgelines. This microtopography is limited within the Front Range, and was wanting at the sites of unsuccessful searches conducted in the course of this project.

In addition to the typical settings of the large, south-facing alpine population sites, there are also small northwest-facing populations at both alpine and subalpine elevations. The elevations range from 6400-8200 feet, the low sites located in exposed settings at the east edge of the Front Range.

5. Edaphic factors: Erigeron lackschewitzii is found exclusively on calcareous soil derived from dolomite, the overriding factor circumscribing its potential habitat in the Front Range. Soils are cryptorthents of gravelly silt or loam, varying in their degree of organic matter and in their surface cover. Typical cover has almost 50% cobble and pebble rock fragments, though the range of rock cover ranges from 5-95%. While these soils are relatively thin, water loss is impeded by surface rock cover, and water retention in limestone-derived soils is higher than that of soils from many other parent materials.
6. Dependence of this taxon on natural disturbance: There was no apparent correlation with alpine disturbance processes like solifluction and frost heaving.
7. Other unusual physical features: N/A

C. Biological characteristics.

1. **Vegetation physiognomy and community structure:** Most population sites fit the description of Bamberg's Dryas octopetala community, as studied northward at Siyeh Pass (1964). However, they had neither the continuous Dryas cover or sharp patterning described by Bamberg.

Dominance by Carex rupestris to the exclusion of shrubs was noted at some sites, a prevailing sedge community dominant as identified in Bamberg's work.

2. **Regional vegetation types:** Most sites fall within the Dryas octopetala / Carex spp. plant association, classified and ranked as G5S5 by the Montana Natural Heritage Program.
3. **Frequently associated species:** A composite list of associated species found at more than one site is listed as follows in approximate decreasing order of frequency.

Shrubs

Dryas octopetala  
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi  
Potentilla fruticosa

Graminoids

Carex rupestris  
Poa alpina  
Festuca rubra  
Kobresia myosuroides  
Trisetum spicatum

Forbs

Androsace chamejasme  
Antennaria aromatica  
Oxytropis sericea  
Erigeron compositus  
Arenaria congesta  
Smelowskia calycina  
Eriogonum flavum  
Erigeron ochroleucus  
Astragalus molybdenus  
Townsendia parryi  
Sedum rosea  
Bupleurum americanum  
Senecio cana

4. **Dominance and frequency of the taxon:** Erigeron lackschewitzii generally occurs as a rare, uncommon, or occasional species in its plant communities, but was noted as "common" at its largest population site. It is not among the community dominants.
5. **Successional phenomena:** Bamberg (1964) proposed that Dryas mats lead successional to sedge meadow turf. If Dryas cover and sedge cover are indicative of successional status, then Erigeron lackschewitzii is present over a wide range of successional stages. Dryas species fix nitrogen, indicative of the successional role in building soil fertility.

The single site of E. lackschewitzii intermixed with tree cover of Pinus flexilis had been burned within recent years, killing the krummholtz tree growth over most of the burn slope. This is insufficient information for characterizing fire response of the species.

6. **Dependence on dynamic aspects of biotic associations and ecosystem features:** The exposed alpine habitat occupied by E. lackschewitzii has climate extremes within the growing season and this may reflect a relation with dynamic ecosystem features.
7. **Other endangered, threatened, rare, or vulnerable species occurring in habitat of this taxon:** Erigeron lackschewitzii is on the same summits as six other plant species of state concern. It sometimes adjoins or overlaps habitat with the first of these, but is otherwise in different localized settings.

Astragalus molybdenus (G3S2)

Botrychium pradoxum, another Category 2 species (G1S1)

Cardamine rupicola, another Montana endemic (G3S3)

Carex maritima var. incurviformis (G2G3T?S1)

Oxytropis podocarpa (G4S1)

Saussurea densa (G3S1)

In addition, it grows in the same habitat as Antennaria aromatica, currently considered a Category 2 species (USDI 1990) though it is widespread in Montana.

## 7. Population biology of the taxon.

- A. **General summary:** Populations of Erigeron lackschewitzii range in numbers from 5-500 individual plants, with the median being ca. 100. Populations at or above median size are usually concentrated in small areas of less than ten acres, while diffuse populations may be spread for over a mile.
- B. **Demography.**
1. **Known populations:** Twelve (Note: two pairs of sites tallied as separate populations lie within 1 mile of one another; Corrugate Ridge and Mount Patrick Gass, and Our Lake and Headquarters Creek Pass)
  2. **General demographic details (Montana):**
    - a. **site (001) Mount Wright**
      1. Area occupied by population: 2
      2. Estimated number of individuals: ca. 100
    - b. **site (002) Headwaters Creek Pass**
      1. Area occupied by population: 10
      2. Estimated number of individuals: 200-300
    - c. **site (003) Sock Lake**
      1. Area occupied by population: 2
      2. Estimated number of individuals: 500
    - d. **site (004) Corrugate Ridge**
      1. Area occupied by population: 10
      2. Estimated number of individuals: fewer than 200
    - e. **site (005) Mount Patrick Gass**
      1. Area occupied by population: 20
      2. Estimated number of individuals: 110-140

- f. site (006) Crown Mountain
  - 1. Area occupied by population: 10
  - 2. Estimated number of individuals: 150-300
- g. site (007) Our Lake
  - 1. Area occupied by population: 10
  - 2. Estimated number of individuals: 200-400
- h. site (008) Teton Ski Area Peak
  - 1. Area occupied by population: 1
  - 2. Estimated number of individuals: "small"
- i. site (009) Washboard Reef
  - 1. Area occupied by population: widely distributed along 1.2 mile of ridge
  - 2. Estimated number of individuals: 8
- j. site (010) Swift River Reservoir
  - 1. Area occupied by population: 1
  - 2. Estimated number of individuals: 5
- k. site (011) Volcano Reef
  - 1. Area occupied by population: widely distributed along 0.5 mile of ridge
  - 2. Estimated number of individuals: 10
- l. Site (012) Steamboat Lookout
  - 1. Area occupied by population: 5
  - 2. Estimated number of individuals: 150

C. Phenology.

1. Patterns: Collections have been made between July 17 to August 10, presumably from plants in flower. In 1992, plants had evidently been flowering before the date of the first field survey on July 17 in what was an early year. The mid-July flowering in 1992 may have been a week early.

Flowering is fairly synchronous throughout the range of settings and on individual plants, spanning less than three weeks except for a few sites having a small number of vigorous multi-stemmed plants that produce late flowers.

2. **Relation to climate and microclimate:** Erigeron lackschewitzii blooms with other plants that do not initiate growth until after snowmelt. The exposed setting is not known to have a special role in its phenology.
- D. **Reproductive ecology.**
1. **Types of reproduction:** None of the flower buds collected in 1992 had produced pollen (Kerstetter pers. obs.). This is taken as preliminary evidence of apomictic reproduction (Kerstetter pers. comun.).
  2. **Pollination.**
    - a. **Mechanisms:** It is possible that fertilization takes place without pollination (see above). It is also interesting to note that the oblique angle of the ligule would seem like an impediment to pollinator visitation.
    - b. **Specific known pollinators:** None known
    - c. **Other suspected pollinators:** None known
    - d. **Vulnerability of pollinators:** None known
  3. **Seed dispersal.**
    - a. **General mechanisms:** Pappus bristles aid in wind dissemination
    - b. **Specific agents:** None known
    - c. **Vulnerability of dispersal agents and mechanisms:** None known
    - d. **Patterns of propagule dispersal:** It has been noted that populations are established at points on the landscape where strong winds converge and eddy.
  4. **Seed biology.**
    - a. **Amount and variation of seed production:** Seed production is expected to vary little among flowering plants, as judged by the uniformity of flowering stalk number and corolla disk diameter. It is assumed that disk corolla size reflects seed numbers.

- b. **Seed viability and longevity:** Viability has yet to be tested.
  - c. **Dormancy requirements:** Unknown. Probably hardened by freezing temperatures over winter.
  - d. **Germination requirements:** Unknown
  - e. **Percent germination:** Unknown
5. **Seedling ecology:** Unknown
6. **Survival and mortality:** No data available; the species occurs most often in open habitat where the "safe site" spaces between loose rock would be more favorable for establishment than vegetation turf.
7. **Overall assessment of taxon's reproductive success:** It is hypothesized that reproduction does not vary by more than small factors from year to year, as indicated by the uniformity of flowering stalk numbers and disk corolla diameter in comparing specimens. Basal rosettes without inflorescences were not noted, and this is an unknown life history component. Seedling establishment would be expected to vary greatly according to recruitment as affected by wind and rainfall patterns.
8. **Population ecology of the taxon.**
- A. **General summary:** Erigeron lackschewitzii occupies areas of open vegetation, but can also persist if not establish in Carex rupestris turf.
  - B. **Positive and neutral interactions:** Individuals of Erigeron lackschewitzii appear to be randomly distributed, except at the lowest population densities which have slightly clumped patterns. This is taken to signify neutral intraspecific interaction.
  - C. **Negative interactions.**
    1. **Herbivores, predators, pests, parasites and diseases:** None observed
    2. **Competition.**

- a. **Intraspecific:** None observed
  - b. **Interspecific:** It rarely becomes established within mats of Dryas octopetala or Arctostaphylos uva-ursi.
  3. **Toxic and allelopathic interactions:** None observed
- D. **Hybridization.**
1. **Naturally occurring:** Individuals of Erigeron lackschewitzii had the field features noted under previous description text. The absence of morphological intermediates despite the proximity of other Erigeron species is indication that hybridization is not occurring or is not frequent.
  2. **Artificially induced:** Research in progress.
  3. **Potential in cultivation:** Unknown
- E. **Other factors of population ecology:** Research in progress on variability within and between populations as part of isozyme work.
9. **Current land ownership and management responsibility.**
- A. **General nature of ownership:** All known populations are on public land.
  - B. **Specific landowners (Montana):** Ten of the twelve known populations are on Lewis and Clark National Forest, one is on Flathead National Forest (003), and one is on State School Land (010).
  - C. **Management responsibility:** The Lewis and Clark National Forest Service populations are all within the Rocky Mountain District; the Flathead National Forest site is on the Spotted Bear District.
  - D. **Easements, conservation restrictions, etc.:** The majority of sites are in or straddling divides marking the boundary of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area and the Scapegoat Wilderness Area. They include the Flathead National Forest site, and eight Lewis and Clark National Forest sites.



## 10. Management practices and experience.

### A. Habitat management.

1. **Review of past management and land use experiences:** There has been little management activity in alpine terrain apart from construction of lookout towers.
2. **Performance under changed conditions:** No data available. It occupies a burn site above Swift Reservoir.
3. **Current management policies and actions:** Fire lookout towers have been taken out of operation near at least two populations, at Mount Wright and Steamboat Mountain. Repeater station installations have recently been proposed at both sites, but are not being pursued at this time (Phillips pers. commun.). Military mountaintop helicopter landings are being proposed within ten miles of the latter on Helena National Forest, but are not being considered on the Lewis and Clark National Forest. There was not indication that the proximity of hiking and pack trails near the populations poses potential threats. Oil drilling work has taken place within a mile of the Volcano Reef site below the montane zone.
4. **Future land use:** Unknown

### B. Cultivation.

1. **Controlled propagation techniques:** Unknown.
2. **Ease of transplanting:** Erigeron ochroleucus is a species of similar stature and size that has been transplanted for rock gardening (Barr 1983) though it is not in horticultural trade. The tendency of E. lackschewitzii to keep a "closed" appearance may make it less desirable than other species of the genus for cultivation.
3. **Pertinent horticultural knowledge:** Unknown
4. **Status and location of presently cultivated material.**
  - a. **Specimen plants:** N/A

- b. Self-sustaining breeding populations:  
N/A
- c. Stored seed: Seed will be germinated at  
Montana State University in 1993.

11. Evidence of threats to survival.

- A. Present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of habitat or range: Unknown
- B. Overutilization for commercial, sporting, scientific, or educational purposes: Collecting for research needs to be done with regard to potential impacts. It has been mainly limited to collection of flower buds and basal leaves to date.
- C. Disease, predation, or grazing: None known
- D. Inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms: None known
- E. Other natural or man-made factors: None known

II. ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12. General assessment of vigor, trends, and status:  
Erigeron lackschewitzii is known from twelve populations totaling ca. 1800 individuals. At least three of these are interpreted to represent small waif populations that to not contribute to population viability. Trend information is not available. Status hinges on taxonomic questions.
- 13. Recommendations for listing or status change.
  - A. Recommendation to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Contingent on taxonomic research underway.
  - B. Recommendations to other U.S. federal agencies: Maintain interim information files on Erigeron lackschewitzii as a species whose viability potentially hinges on management actions of the U.S. Forest Service. Further review warranted pending taxonomic research.
  - C. Other status recommendations. None
    - 1. Counties and local areas: N/A
    - 2. States: N/A

14. **Recommended critical habitat:** Recommended critical habitat encompasses the largest populations having over 200 individuals, contiguous on taxonomic research:
- #002 Headquarters Creek Pass at T24N R9W Sec. 19 E 1/2 and adjoining Sec. 30 NE 1/4
- #003 Sock Lake at T24N R11W Sec. 31 NE 1.4
- #006 Crown Mountain at T19N R9W Sec. 28 NW 1/4 and adjoining Sec. 29 NE 1/4
- #007 Our Lake at T24N R9W Sec. 18 W 1/2
15. **Conservation/recovery recommendations.** Taxonomic information is needed to address the following subjects, to be covered in 1994 update.
- A. **General conservation recommendations.**
1. **Recommendations regarding present or anticipated activities:** See above
  2. **Areas recommended for protection:** See above
  3. **Habitat management recommendations:** See above
  4. **Publicity sensitivity:** Low level of sensitivity at present
  5. **Other recommendations:** None at this time
- B. **Monitoring activities and research needs:** See above
16. **Interested parties:**
- Office of Endangered Species  
ATTN: Dr. James Miller  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 25486  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, CO 80225
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
ATTN: Dale Harms  
Federal Building, 301 S. Park  
P.O. Box 10023  
Helena, MT 59626

Office of Endangered Species  
ATTN: Dr. John Fay  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington, D.C. 20240

U.S. Forest Service, Region One  
ATTN: Steve Shelly  
Federal Building  
P.O. Box 7669  
Missoula, MT 59807

Lewis and Clark National Forest  
ATTN: Wayne Phillips  
P.O. Box 871  
Great Falls, MT 59423

Flathead National Forest  
ATTN: Dave Bunnell  
1935 Third Ave. East  
Kalispell, MT 59901

Tulli Kerstetter  
Department of Biology  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT 59771

Klaus Lackschewitz  
6322 Woods Road  
Missoula, MT 59802

Peter Lesica  
Ecological Consulting  
929 Locust  
Missoula, MT 59802

The Nature Conservancy  
ATTN: Dr. Larry Morse  
1815 North Lynn Street  
Arlington, VA 22209

The Nature Conservancy  
ATTN: Bernie Hall  
Montana Field Office  
32 South Ewing  
Helena, MT 59601

Montana Department of State Lands  
1625 Eleventh Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Montana Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 992  
Bozeman, MT 59771

Montana Natural Heritage  
State Library Building  
1515 E. 6th Ave.  
Helena, MT 59620

### III. INFORMATION SOURCES

#### 17. Sources of Information.

##### A. Publications.

1. **References cited in report:** See Literature Cited (pp. 26).

- ##### B. Museum collections:
- Voucher specimens collected in Montana during field work on this project are cited in the SPECIMEN field on the computer printouts (Appendix B) and are deposited at MONT, with duplicate material at MONTU. Previously collected specimens from Montana are cited in the SPECIMEN field as well.

##### C. Fieldwork.

1. **Surveys conducted:** B.L. Heidel 17 July, 23-28 July 1992.

- ##### D. Knowledgeable individuals:
- See addressed under interested parties

Tulli Kerstetter  
Klaus Lackschewitz  
Peter Lesica  
Wayne Phillips  
Steve Shelly

- ##### E. Other information sources:
- Color slides of additional populations in Montana are on file at the Montana Natural Heritage Program office.

- #### 18. Summary of materials on file:
- All detailed field survey forms and field maps, and most references cited, are on file at the Montana Natural Heritage Program office.

## IV. AUTHORSHIP

## 19. Initial authorship:

Bonnie L. Heidel  
State Library  
Montana Natural Heritage Program  
1515 East 6th Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 444-3009

20. Maintenance of status report: The Montana Natural Heritage Program will maintain current information and update the status report as needed. Should the species be listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the respective USFWS offices should maintain the information and distribute new findings to the interested parties.

## V. NEW INFORMATION

21. Record of revisions: Not currently available.

### Literature Cited

- Bamberg, S.A. 1964. Ecology of the vegetation and soils associated with calcareous parent material in the alpine region of Montana. University of California, Davis. PhD. Thesis. 91 pp.
- Bamberg, S.A. and J. Major. 1968. Ecology of the vegetation and soils associated with calcareous parent materials in three alpine regions of Montana. Ecol. Monogr. 42:417-450.
- Barr, C.A. 1983. Jewels of the Plain. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis. 236 pp.
- Caprio, J.M. and G.A. Nielsen. 1992. Climate atlas of Montana. Montana State University. Bozeman, MT. 63 pp.
- Dorn, R.D. 1984. Vascular plants of Montana. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY. 276 pp.
- Fenneman, N.M. 1931. Physiography of western United States. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York. 534 pp.
- Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1984. Vascular plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part Five. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 343 pp.
- Lesica, P. and J.S. Shelly. 1991. Sensitive, threatened and endangered vascular plants of Montana. Montana Natural Heritage Program, Helena. 88 pp.
- Mudge, M.R. and R.L. Earhart. 1977. Geologic map of the Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wildernesses and adjacent study areas, Montana. U.S. Geological Survey, miscellaneous investigations series. Reston, VA.
- Nesom, G.L. 1989. Intrageneric taxonomy of new world Erigeron (Compositae: Astereae). Phytologia 67 (1):67-93.
- Nesom, G.L. and W.A. Weber. 1983. A new woolly-headed, monocephalous Erigeron (Asteraceae) from Montana. Madrono 30:2450249.
- Spongberg, S.A. 1971. A systematic and evolutionary study of North American arctic and alpine monocephalous species of Erigeron (Compositae). PhD Thesis, Univ. North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1990. Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants: review of plant taxa for listing as endangered or threatened species. Federal Register 50 CFR Part 17: 6184-6229.
- Visher, S.S. 1954. Climatic atlas of the United States. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA. 403 pp.

APPENDIX A. Close-ups and habitat photos of Erigeron  
lackschewitzii



Erigeron lackschewitzii close-up of typical plant having a single  
flowering stem

Note surface made up of Carex rupestris turf

Our Lake (#007) 24 July 1992



Erigeron lackschewitzii close-up of two multi-stemmed plants, with optimal plant vigor

Note relative synchrony of flowering

Steamboat Lookout (#012) 28 July 1992



Erigeron lackschewitzii sympatric with E. ochroleucus in an extremely varren site.

Note the hairy involcre and the ligules on E. lackschewitzii as they project upward on this mature inflorescence

Washboard Reef (#009) 25 July 1992



Erigeron lackschewitzii habitat at its driest extreme

Note ridge crest setting

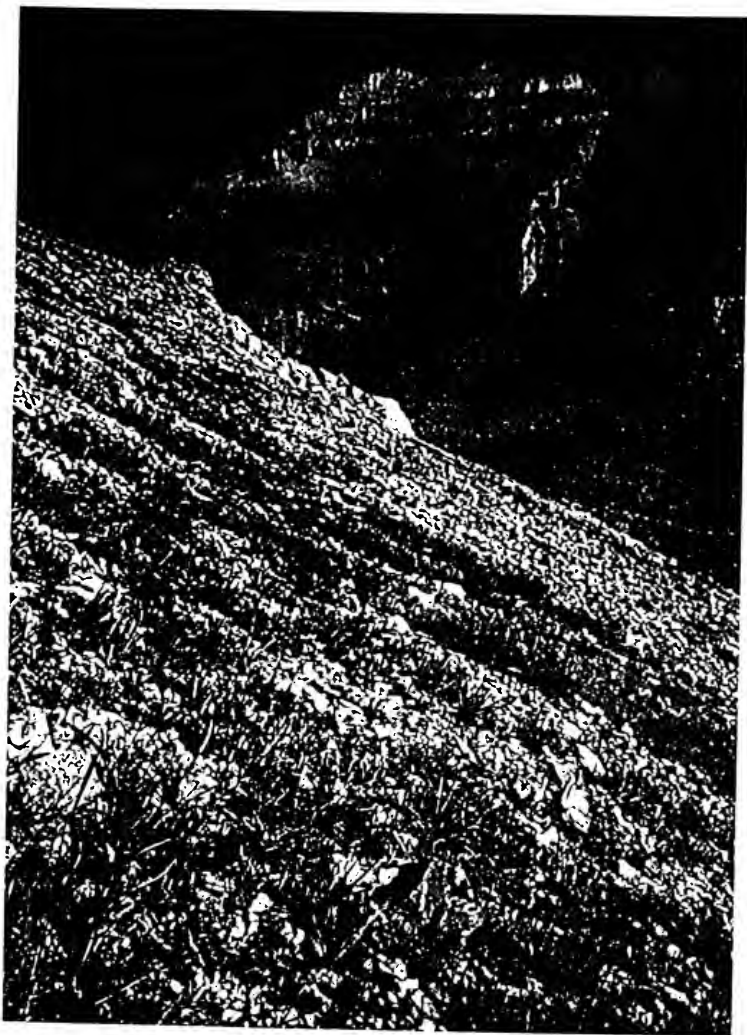
Washboard Reef (#009) 25 July 1992



Erigeron lackschewitzii typical habitat in terms of vegetation cover, aspect and slope

Note Cardamine rupicola habitat on opposite scree slope

Crown Mountain (#006) 23 July 1992



Erigeron lackschewitzii habitat having relatively high mesic plant component

Note Potentilla fruticosa, Castilleja pulchella

Steamboat Lookout (#012) 28 July 1992



APPENDIX B. Element Occurrence Records

February 16, 1993

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ERIGERON LACKSCHEWITZII

Common Name: FRONT MOUNTAIN FLEABANE

Global rank: G2Q Forest Service status:  
State rank: S2 Federal Status: C2

Element occurrence code: PDAST3M4F0.001

Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: MOUNT WRIGHT

EO rank: BC

EO rank comments: FAIR POPULATION SIZE.

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: MOUNT WRIGHT

Township: Range: Section: TRS comments:  
026N 010W 25 S2; 26 SE4

Survey date: 1982-07-23 Elevation: 7500 -  
First observation: 1982 Slope/aspect:  
Last observation: 1992-07-17 Size (acres): 2

Location:

EAST FLANK OF MOUNT WRIGHT, EAST FRONT RANGE; NORTH OF TRAIL IN  
SADDLE.

Element occurrence data:

1992: PEAK FLOWERING ON 17 JULY. 1983: SCATTERED PLANTS JUST ABOVE  
UPPER KRUMMHOLZ. 1982: MANY PLANTS, ABOUT 100, JUST BELOW DRY  
LIMESTONE WALL

General site description:

NARROW, STEEP LIMESTONE OUTCROP IN CAREX RUPESTRIS HABITAT TYPE  
BETWEEN CLUMPS OF DRYAS, WITH ERIGERON OCHROLEUCUS, POTENTILLA NIVEA,  
ANDROSACE CHAMAEJASME.

Land owner/manager:

BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS  
LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

Comments:

RECENTLY DESCRIBED STATE ENDEMIC. COLLECTIONS MADE OF INDIVIDUAL  
FLOWER HEADS IN 1992 FOR MORPHOMETRIC STUDY.

Information source:

LACKSCHEWITZ, KLAUS. DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIV. OF  
MONTANA, MISSOULA, MT 59812.

Specimens:

LACKSCHEWITZ, K. (10085, 10506). 1982 & 1983. SPECIMEN #s 089924,  
098541. MONTU.  
HEIDEL, B. (844). 1992.



February 16, 1993

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ERIGERON LACKSCHEWITZII  
Common Name: FRONT MOUNTAIN FLEABANE

Global rank: G2Q Forest Service status:  
State rank: S2 Federal Status: C2

Element occurrence code: PDAST3M4F0.002  
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: HEADQUARTERS CREEK PASS/ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
EO rank: B  
EO rank comments: SCATTERED SMALL TO MODERATE COLONIES, MOSTLY IN  
UNDISTURBED AREAS.

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: OUR LAKE

Township: Range: Section: TRS comments:  
024N 009W 19 E2; 30,NE4

Survey date: 1989-08-10 Elevation: 7760 -  
First observation: 1978 Slope/aspect: LEVEL-35%/WEST  
Last observation: 1989-08-10 Size (acres): 10

Location:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT RANGE, HEADQUARTERS CREEK PASS AND WEST SLOPE OF  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN.

Element occurrence data:

CA. 200-300 PLANTS, IN THREE AREAS; MOST ABUNDANT ON THE SADDLE WEST  
OF THE SUMMIT OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN.

General site description:

DRY, TURFY MEADOWS, AND ON ROCK LEDGES, LIMESTONE PARENT MATERIAL;  
WITH ERIGERON COMPOSITUS, ANTENNARIA AROMATICA, DRYAS OCTOPETALA,  
SEDUM ROSEUM.

Land owner/manager:

BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS  
LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

Comments:

VOUCHERS-LACKSCHEWITZ, K.H. (8487), 1978, MONTU (81263); SHELLY, J.S.  
(1601) AND L.A. SCHAASBERGER, 1989, MONTU.

Information source:

SHELLY, J.S. 1989. FIELD SURVEYS IN TETON COUNTY OF 7-10, 21-23, AND  
28-30 AUGUST.

Specimens:

February 16, 1993

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ERIGERON LACKSCHEWITZII

Common Name: FRONT MOUNTAIN FLEABANE

Global rank: G2Q      Forest Service status:  
State rank: S2      Federal Status: C2

Element occurrence code: PDAST3M4F0.003

Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: SOCK LAKE

EO rank:

EO rank comments:

County: LEWIS AND CLARK  
FLATHEAD

USGS quadrangle: THREE SISTERS

Township: Range: Section: TRS comments:  
024N      011W      31      NE4

Survey date: 1979-07-26      Elevation: 8200 -  
First observation: 1979      Slope/aspect:  
Last observation: 1979-07-26      Size (acres): 2

Location:

FLATHEAD RANGE, "N WALL" OF CONTINENTAL DIVIDE, SUMMIT OF MOUNTAIN  
ABOVE SOCK LAKE.

Element occurrence data:

LARGEST POPULATION KNOWN, CA. 500 PLANTS; ON BOUNDARY OF WATERSHED  
17010209; ALSO ON BOUNDARY OF FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST.

General site description:

COMMON IN ARCTOSTAPHYLOS POLYGONS, ALSO IN DRY MEADOW, ASSOCIATED WITH  
ERIGERON RADICATUS AND TOWNSENDIA PARRYI.

Land owner/manager:

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT  
SUN RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA  
BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS

Comments:

TYPE LOCALITY, RECENTLY DESCRIBED STATE ENDEMIC; VOUCHER -  
LACKSCHEWITZ (9101), 1979, MONTU (HOLOTYPE), COLO (ISOTYPE).

Information source:

NESOM, G.L., AND W.A. WEBER. 1983. A NEW WOOLY-HEADED, MONOCEPHALOUS  
ERIGERON (ASTERACEAE) FROM MONTANA. MADRONO 30:245-249

Specimens:

February 16, 1993

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ERIGERON LACKSCHEWITZII  
Common Name: FRONT MOUNTAIN FLEABANE

Global rank: G2Q Forest Service status:  
State rank: S2 Federal Status: C2

Element occurrence code: PDAST3M4F0.004  
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: CORRUGATE RIDGE  
EO rank:  
EO rank comments:

County: TETON  
FLATHEAD

USGS quadrangle: GATEWAY PASS

Township: Range: Section: TRS comments:  
026N 010W 16 9

Survey date: 1983-07-29 Elevation: 8000 -  
First observation: 1983 Slope/aspect:  
Last observation: 1983-07-29 Size (acres): 10

Location:  
CORRUGATE RIDGE, ALONG CONTINENTAL DIVIDE ABOVE W. SIDE OF HEADWATERS  
OF BRUCE CREEK.

Element occurrence data:  
SEVERAL SMALL COLONIES, FEWER THAN 200 PLANTS.

General site description:  
BOULDER FIELD WITH A FEW SMALL LEVEL PLATEAUS; WITH ANDROSACE  
LEHMANNIANA AND ANTENNARIA MONOCEPHALA.

Land owner/manager:  
FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST, SPOTTED BEAR RANGER DISTRICT  
BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS  
LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

Comments:  
RECENTLY DESCRIBED STATE ENDEMIC.

Information source:  
LACKSHEWITZ, KLAUS. DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF  
MONTANA, MISSOULA, MT 59812.

Specimens:

March 29, 1993

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ERIGERON LACKSCHEWITZII  
Common Name: FRONT MOUNTAIN FLEABANE

Global rank: G2Q Forest Service status:  
State rank: S2 Federal Status: C2

Element occurrence code: PDAST3M4F0.005  
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: MOUNT PATRICK GASS  
EO rank:  
EO rank comments:

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: GATEWAY PASS  
WALLING REEF

Township: Range: Section: TRS comments:  
026N 010W 10 N2; 15 NE4

Survey date: Elevation: 7800 - 7840  
First observation: 1983 Slope/aspect: 40-45% / NORTH  
Last observation: 1992-08-01 Size (acres): 20

Location:

SOUTH FLANKS OF MOUNT PATRICK GASS, ON DIVIDE BETWEEN BRUCE CREEK AND CRAZY CREEK, AND ON NORTH FLANK OF NW-SE RIDGE SOUTH OF MOUNT PATRICK GASS.

Element occurrence data:

1992: 30-40 PLANTS LOCATED IN THIRD (WESTERNMOST) SUBPOPULATION. 1983: SCATTERED SINGLE PLANTS, LESS THAN 100; TWO SUBPOPULATIONS.

General site description:

LIMESTONE PARENT MATERIAL, WINDY EXPOSED SLOPES. WITH ERIGERON SIMPLEX, POA ALPINA, FESTUCA RUBRA. ERIGERON COMPOSITUS IN WESTERNMOST SUBPOPULATION.

Land owner/manager:

BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS  
LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

Comments:

RECENTLY DESCRIBED STATE ENDEMIC. THIRD SUBPOPULATION LOCATED BY T. KERSTETTER, MSU, IN 1992.

Information source:

LACKSCHEWITZ, KLAUS. DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA, MT 59812.

Specimens:

LACKSCHEWITZ, K. (10618). 1983. SPECIMEN #098536. MONTU.  
KERSTETTER, T. (S.N.). 1992. MONT.

February 16, 1993

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ERIGERON LACKSCHEWITZII  
Common Name: FRONT MOUNTAIN FLEABANE

Global rank: G2Q Forest Service status:  
State rank: S2 Federal Status: C2

Element occurrence code: PDAST3M4FO.006  
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: CROWN MOUNTAIN  
EO rank: B  
EO rank comments: GOOD-SIZED POPULATION.

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: SCAPEGOAT MOUNTAIN

Township: Range: Section: TRS comments:  
019N 009W 28 NW4, 29 NE4

Survey date: 1992-07-23 Elevation: 7200 -7700  
First observation: 1986 Slope/aspect:  
Last observation: 1992-07-23 Size (acres): 10

Location:

FRONT RANGE MOUNTAINS, SOUTH-FACING SLOPES OF CROWN MOUNTAIN WEST OF  
THE PASS, ACROSS FROM PACK TRAIL.

Element occurrence data:

1992: 150-300 PLANTS, IN EARLY FRUIT ON 23 JULY. 1986: RARE.

General site description:

IN LIMESTONE TALUS ON SOUTH-FACING SLOPES. OCCASIONAL BETWEEN MATS OF  
DRYAS OCTOPETALA AND ARCTOSTAPHYLOS UVA-URSI IN AREAS DOMINATED BY  
CAREX RUPESTRIS. ASSOCIATED SPECIES: POTENTILLA FRUTICOSA, BUPLEURUM  
AMERICANUM, ANDROSACE CHAMAEJASME.

Land owner/manager:

SCAPEGOAT WILDERNESS  
LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

Comments:

SYMPATRIC WITH E. SIMPLEX ON MIDSLOPE RIDGE.

Information source:

HEIDEL, B. 1992. FIELD SURVEY TO CROWN MOUNTAIN OF 23 JULY.

Specimens:

LESICA, P. (4044). 1986. SPECIMEN #104490. MONTU.  
HEIDEL, B. (856). 1992. MONT.

February 16, 1993

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ERIGERON LACKSCHEWITZII  
Common Name: FRONT MOUNTAIN FLEABANE

Global rank: G2Q      Forest Service status:  
State rank: S2      Federal Status: C2

Element occurrence code: PDAST3M4F0.007  
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: OUR LAKE  
EO rank: AB  
EO rank comments:

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: OUR LAKE

Township: Range: Section: TRS comments:  
024N      009W      18      W2.

Survey date: 1989-08-09      Elevation: 8400 -  
First observation: 1986      Slope/aspect: 5-25% / EAST, WEST  
Last observation: 1992-07-24      Size (acres): 5

Location:

FRONT RANGE MOUNTAINS, CA. 25 MILES WEST OF CHOTEAU, ABOVE OUR LAKE ON  
RIDGE NORTH OF HEADQUARTERS PASS AND ON SADDLE SLOPES WEST OF OUR  
LAKE.

Element occurrence data:

1992: 200-400 PLANTS, MOST DENSELY CONCENTRATED ON WEST-FACING SLOPE.  
IN PEAK FLOWERING ON 24 JULY, AN EARLY YEAR. 1989: COMMON; LARGE  
POPULATION (ROE). CA. 25 PLANTS OVER A ONE ACRE AREA, IN FLOWER  
(PHILLIPS, FIELD).

General site description:

IN ALPINE TURF; WITH DRYAS OCTOPETALA, CAREX RUPESTRIS, KOBRESIA  
MYOSUROIDES, ERIGERON COMPOSITUS, AND ASTRAGALUS MOLYBDENUS. ALPINE  
FELLFIELD; LIMESTONE BEDROCK.

Land owner/manager:

BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS  
LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

Comments:

SITE REVISITED BY B. HEIDEL (MTNHP) IN 1992. WITHIN 1 MILE AND  
POSSIBLY A SUBPOPULATION OF OCCURRENCE #002 (HEADQUARTERS CREEK PASS).  
1992 COLLECTIONS MADE FOR GENETICS RESEARCH.

Information source:

PHILLIPS, W. AND D. FIELD. LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, P.O. BOX  
- 871, GREAT FALLS, MT 59403.

Specimens:

February 16, 1993

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ERIGERON LACKSCHEWITZII  
Common Name: FRONT MOUNTAIN FLEABANE

Global rank: G2Q Forest Service status:  
State rank: S2 Federal Status: C2

Element occurrence code: PDAST3M4F0.008  
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: TETON SKI AREA PEAK  
EO rank: C  
EO rank comments:

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: MOUNT WRIGHT

Township: Range: Section: TRS comments:  
025N 010W 12 SE4

Survey date: 1989-08-08 Elevation: 7960 -  
First observation: 1989 Slope/aspect: 3% / NW  
Last observation: 1989-08-08 Size (acres): 1

Location:

CA. 34 MILES WEST OF CHOTEAU, ON WEST SIDE OF PEAK ABOVE TETON PASS  
SKI AREA.

Element occurrence data:  
SMALL POPULATION.

General site description:

IN MOIST, TURFY, LIMESTONE SOIL, WITH DRYAS OCTOPETALA, SMELOWSKIA  
CALYCINIA, ASTRAGALUS MOLYBDENUS, AND ANDROSACE CHAMAEJASME.

Land owner/manager:

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

Comments:

VOUCHER - SCHASSBERGER, L.A. (339), WITH J. PIERCE, 1989, MONTU.

Information source:

SCHASSBERGER, L.A. 1989. FIELD SURVEYS OF THE FRONT RANGE MOUNTAINS,  
7-10 AND 21-23 AUGUST.

Specimens:

February 16, 1993

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ERIGERON LACKSCHEWITZII

Common Name: FRONT MOUNTAIN FLEABANE

Global rank: G2Q Forest Service status:  
State rank: S2 Federal Status: C2

Element occurrence code: PDAST3M4F0.009

Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: WASHBOARD REEF

EO rank: CD

EO rank comments: SMALL POPULATION, MARGINAL HABITAT.

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: PORPHYRY REEF

Township: Range: Section: TRS comments:  
025N 010W 10 NW4SW4

Survey date: 1992-07-25 Elevation: 7920 -

First observation: 1992-07-25 Slope/aspect: 30%/SOUTHWEST

Last observation: 1992-07-25 Size (acres):

Location:

NORTH OF TRAIL 117 ON WASHBOARD REEF RIDGELINE; OVER 6 MILES FROM WEST FORK TETON TRAILHEAD.

Element occurrence data:

DIFFUSE POPULATION OF 8 PLANTS ON 0.5 MILE OF RIDGE, LOW VIGOR, IN LATE FLOWER.

General site description:

LIMESTONE PARENT MATERIAL ON FLAT BARREN SLOPE FACING SOUTHWEST. EXTREMELY SPARSELY VEGETATED. ASSOCIATED SPECIES: CAREX RUPESTRIS, ANDROSACE CHAMAEJASME, SMELOWSKIA CALYCINA, SENECIO CANA, ERIGERON OCHROLEUCUS, ERIGERON COMPOSITUS.

Land owner/manager:

BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS  
LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

Comments:

Information source:

HEIDEL, B. 1992. [FIELD SURVEY TO WASHBOARD REEF OF 25 JULY.]

Specimens:



February 16, 1993

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ERIGERON LACKSCHEWITZII  
Common Name: FRONT MOUNTAIN FLEABANE

Global rank: G2Q Forest Service status:  
State rank: S2 Federal Status: C2

Element occurrence code: PDAST3M4F0.010  
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: SWIFT RIVER  
EO rank: CD  
EO rank comments: SMALL OUTLIER POPULATION, MARGINAL HABITAT.

County: PONDERA

USGS quadrangle: FISH LAKE

Township: Range: Section: TRS comments:  
028N 010W 35 N2NE4

Survey date: 1992-07-26 Elevation: 6400 -  
First observation: 1992-07-26 Slope/aspect:  
Last observation: 1992-07-27 Size (acres): 1

Location:

ABOVE SWIFT RIVER RESERVOIR, 1.25 MILES SOUTHEAST OF DAM ON RIDGE AT  
EAST EDGE OF FRONT RANGE.

Element occurrence data:

5 PLANTS, MULTI-STEMMED AND VIGOROUS, IN LATE FLOWER.

General site description:

TOP OF A DRAW ABOVE SWIFT RESERVOIR, ON STEEP PARTIALLY FORESTED  
KRUMMHOLTZ SLOPE. ASSOCIATED SPECIES: PINUS FLEXILIS, ARCTOSTAPHYLOS  
UVA-URSI, GRASSES, SHEPERDIA ARGENTEA, ANDROSACE CHAMAEJASME,  
HEDYSARUM SULPHURESCENS, ZIGADENUS ELEGANS, POTENTILLA FRUTICOSA.

Land owner/manager:

STATE LAND - UNDESIGNATED

Comments:

EXTENSIVE DIEBACK OF PINUS FLEXILIS ON THE SLOPE; SOME OR ALL DUE TO  
FIRE. WELL-WORN GAME TRAILS CROSS THE SLOPE. COLLECTION MADE  
PREMATURELY BEFORE POPULATION COUNT.

Information source:

HEIDEL, B. 1992. [FIELD SURVEY TO SWIFT RIVER RESERVIOR OF 26 JULY.]

Specimens:

HEIDEL, B. L. (873). 1992. MONT.

February 16, 1993

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ERIGERON LACKSCHEWITZII

Common Name: FRONT MOUNTAIN FLEABANE

Global rank: G2Q      Forest Service status:  
State rank: S2      Federal Status: C2

Element occurrence code: PDAST3M4F0.011  
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: VOLCANO REEF  
EO rank: CD  
EO rank comments: SMALL OUTLIER POPULATION; MARGINAL HABITAT.

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: VOLCANO REEF

Township: Range: Section: TRS comments:  
026N      009W      11      NE4SE4; SEC 12 SW4SW4

Survey date:	1992-07-27	Elevation:	6740 -
First observation:	1992-07-27	Slope/aspect:	20%/NNW
Last observation:	1992-07-27	Size (acres):	

Location:  
VOLCANO REEF RIDGETOP AT EAST EDGE OF FRONT RANGE, NORTH OF BLACKLEAF CANYON.

Element occurrence data:  
10 PLANTS ACROSS 1.5 MILES OF RIDGE, INCLUDING ONE AGGREGATE OF 7 PLANTS. IN LATE FLOWER.

General site description:

Land owner/manager:  
LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

Comments:

Information source:  
HEIDEL, B. L. 1992. [FIELD SURVEY TO VOLCANO REEF OF 27 JULY.]

Specimens:

February 16, 1993

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ERIGERON LACKSCHEWITZII  
Common Name: FRONT MOUNTAIN FLEABANE

Global rank: G2Q Forest Service status:  
State rank: S2 Federal Status: C2

Element occurrence code: PDAST3M4F0.012  
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: STEAMBOAT LOOKOUT  
EO rank: B  
EO rank comments: RELATIVELY LARGE POPULATION AND HIGH DENSITY.

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: JAKIE CREEK

Township: Range: Section: TRS comments:  
018N 008W 17 S2

Survey date: 1992-07-28 Elevation: 8280 -8320  
First observation: 1992-07-28 Slope/aspect: 15% / SSW  
Last observation: 1992-07-28 Size (acres): 5

Location:

LOWER EAST END OF RIDGE DIRECTLY NORTH OF STEAMBOAT MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT,  
NORTH OF UNNUMBERED TRAIL TO LOOKOUT; OVER 6 MILES ABOVE TRAILHEAD ON  
ELK CREEK.

Element occurrence data:

CA. 150 PLANTS, VIGOROUS CONDITION. ALTHOUGH MOST PLANTS WERE IN LATE  
FLOWER, MANY HAD MULTI-STEMMED CLUMP AT DIFFERENT STAGES, INCLUDING  
EARLY BUD.

General site description:

ALPINE LIMESTONE COBBLE SLOPE WITH CAREX RUPESTRIS PATTERNED TURF  
PATCHES AND WIDELY SPACED POTENTILLA FRUTICOSA. SEMI-SHELTERED SADDLE  
SETTING. ASSOCIATED SPECIES: SEDUM ROSEUM, OXYTROPIS SERICEA,  
CASTILLEJA PULCHELLA, ANDROSACE CHAMAEJASME, POA ALPINA, POLYGONUM  
VIVIPARUM, ZIGADENUS ELEGANS, CARDAMINE RUPICOLA.

Land owner/manager:

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT  
SCAPEGOAT WILDERNESS

Comments:

REPEATER TOWER INSTALLATION PROPOSED AT LOOKOUT; LITTLE OR NO  
POTENTIAL IMPACT. CARDAMINE RUPICOLA IS RARE IN ERIGERON  
LACKSCHEWITZII HABITAT.

Information source:

HEIDEL, B. 1992. [MTNHP FIELD SURVEY TO STEAMBOAT LOOKOUT OF 28 JULY.]

Specimens:

HEIDEL, B. (885). 1992. MONT. MONTU.

APPENDIX C. Site Maps

MONTANA  
STATE  
LIBRARY