

## Appendix B.

### Natural Heritage Ranking System

WYNDD uses The Nature Conservancy's standardized ranking system to assess the global and state rarity of all plant and animal species, subspecies, and varieties. Each taxon is ranked on a scale of 1-5 (rarest to most common) based on population size, geographic range, habitat specificity, and downward trend at the state and global levels. Codes are as follows:

- G Global rank: based on the rangewide status of a species.
- T Trinomial rank: based on the rangewide status of a subspecies or variety.
- S State rank: based on the status of a taxon in Wyoming (state ranks may differ in other states).
- 1 Critically imperiled because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer extant occurrences, or very few remaining individuals), or because of some factor of a species' life history that makes it vulnerable to extinction.
- 2 Imperiled because of rarity (6-20 occurrences) or because of factors demonstrably making a species vulnerable to extinction.
- 3 Rare or local throughout its range or found locally in a restricted range (21-100 occurrences).
- 4 Apparently secure, although the species may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
- 5 Demonstrably secure, although the species may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
- H Known only from historical records (last observed prior to 1950).
- U Status uncertain, more information is needed.
- Q Questions exist regarding the taxonomic validity of a species, subspecies, or variety.
- ? Questions exist regarding the assigned G, T, or S rank of a taxon.

Protection Status and Checklist of the  
Vascular Plant Flora of the  
Bighorn Landscape

Fertig 1999

