



**Western Prairie Fringed Orchid
(Platanthera praeclara)**

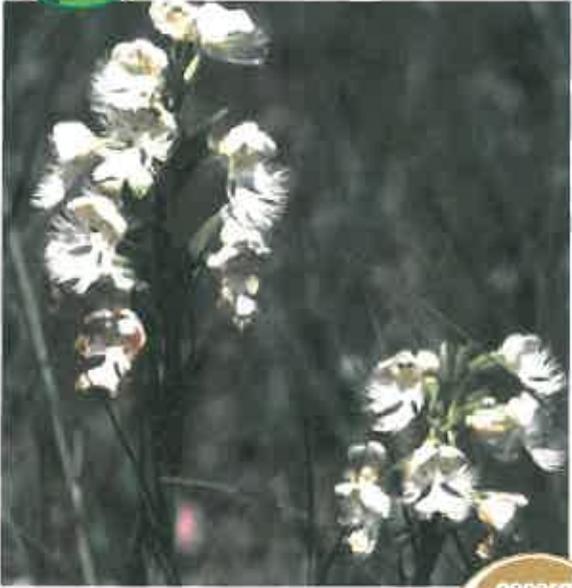


Photo Source: Marlin Bowles, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



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Western Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*)

Federal status: Threatened
Colorado status: Not found in Colorado

This perennial plant produces flower stalks up to 47 inches tall. Each stalk has up to 40 flowers about an inch long, creamy to greenish white in color. Each flower has a hood-shaped petal and a long nectar spur in back.

Habitat: This species grows in mesic to wet unplowed tallgrass prairies and meadows but also has been found in old fields and roadside ditches. It is found in mid-western states west of the Mississippi River. This plant does not grow in Colorado but can be adversely affected by depletion of the Platte River drainage that flows easterly from the state. This is a potential issue in 21 northern Colorado counties.



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