

Zigadenus venenosus (Meadow Deathcamas)

Conservation Status Rank Summary

Date Published: June 30, 2026

For details on assessment and ranking methodology, see: [Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species](#)

Rarity and Trends

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value Factor Rating	Score	Data Source	Comments
Rarity					
Range Extent	2026-06-30	380530.8 km ² G = 200,000-2,500,000 km ²	4.710	MTNHP Range Maps	None
Area of Occupancy	2026-06-30	* H = 2,501-12,500 4-km ² grid cells	4.810	MTNHP Databases	Likely more than 2,500 grid cells are occupied based on the available data, plus the likelihood of numerous unreported locations.
Number of Occurrences			-		Factor not used in ranking.
Population Size	2026-06-30	* GH = 100,000 to >1,000,000 individuals	[4.710, 5.500]	Expert Opinion	Data to determine population levels are lacking. However, the species is widespread and common in some habitats with robust population levels.
# of Occurrences in Good Condition			-		Factor not used in ranking.
% of Area Occupied in Good Condition			-		Factor not used in ranking.
Environmental Specificity	2025-03-01	Broad D = Broad; generalist or community with all key requirements common	-	Expert Opinion	Factor not used in ranking. Assessed by Scott Mincemoyer
Rarity is calculated by averaging weighted factor scores: $((4.71 \times 1) + (4.81 \times 2) + ([4.71, 5.50] \times 2)) / 5 = [4.75, 5.07]$					
Trends					
Short-term Trend	2026-06-30	* FG = Decline of 30% to relatively stable	[-0.070, 0.000]	Expert Opinion	Actual short-term population trends are unknown though the species has likely been relatively stable or experienced minor declines in the recent past from development and decreases in habitat condition from invasive species and various land uses and activities.
Long-term Trend	2026-06-30	* F = Decline of 10 - 30%	-0.070	Expert Opinion	Data to determine actual population trends are unavailable. However, some of the species' habitat has been developed or converted to agriculture. Additionally, the condition of some of the habitat has been degraded by invasive species and various land uses and activities.

					Some declines in populations have almost certainly occurred over the long-term as a result.
Trends score is calculated by summing weighted short and long-term trend scores: $(([-0.07, 0.00] \times 2) + (-0.07 \times 1)) = [-0.21, -0.07]$					

*Values may be absent if not precisely estimated; factors may still be assessed for rank if a Factor Rating can be assigned.

Threats

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value Factor Rating	Score	Data Source	Comments
Threats					
Overall Threat Impact		Medium - Low CD = Medium - Low	[3.670, 5.500]		Various threats, including development and degradation of habitat from various land uses and activities are likely to negatively impact the species and its habitat. However, due to the species' widespread distribution, these threats are minor in scope and/or magnitude. The threat from invasive species are widespread and substantial enough to potentially have more widespread negative impacts.
Intrinsic Vulnerability	2026-06-30	Moderately vulnerable to not intrinsically vulnerable BC = Moderately vulnerable to not intrinsically vulnerable	-	Expert Opinion	Factor not used in ranking. Assessed by Scott Mincemoyer
Threat score is calculated from Overall Threat Impact when available or Intrinsic Vulnerability if not: ([3.67, 5.50]) = [3.67, 5.50]					

Individual Threats Data

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Impact Score	Scope	Severity	Immediacy	Comments
Invasive & Other Problematic Species, Genes & Diseases	2026-06-30	Medium - Low	Restricted	Serious-Slight	High	Invasive species, including non-native, annual and perennial grasses invade and degrade the species' habitat, potentially out-competing it and altering the functioning and condition of the habitat.
Threat Tally: 0 - Very High, 0 - High, [0,1] - Medium, [0,1] - Low Overall Threat Impact* = Medium - Low						

*See [Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species](#) for calculation of Overall Threat Impact based on the number and impact of individual threats.

Conservation Status Rank Calculation

Raw score

Rarity: $([4.75, 5.07] \times 70\%) + \text{Threats: } ([3.67, 5.50] \times 30\%) + \text{Trends: } ([-0.21, -0.07]) = [4.22, 5.13]$

Calculated Rank: S4S5

Accepted Rank	S4S5
Author(s)	Scott Mincemoyer
Rank Approved By	Montana Natural Heritage Program Staff
State Rank Reason	DRAFT: Requesting feedback on the 2026 revised rank, factors, and State Rank Reason outlined below and in the Conservation Status Rank Report. <i>Zigadenus venenosus</i> is widespread, occurring statewide and it is common to locally abundant in some lower elevation habitats. Populations have likely experienced minor declines over the long-term from habitat development and conversion of habitat to agricultural uses. Invasive species, including annual and perennial, rhizomatous grasses have also negatively impacted the species' habitat. Though these threats continue to impact the species and have likely resulted in some population declines, the species is common and widespread enough that impacts have been minor and population levels are robust enough that its viability in the state is not a concern.

Supplementary Information

Montana Natural Heritage Program. 2021. Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species. 18 p.

https://mtnhp.mt.gov/docs/Montana_State_Rank_Criteria_20211201.pdf

Montana Field Guide Species Account:

<https://fieldguide.mt.gov/speciesDetail.aspx?elcode=PMLIL280D0>

Predicted Suitable Habitat Model:

<https://mtnhp.mt.gov/resources/models/?elcode=PMLIL280D0>

Information Needs

Information needs are assessed by considering the availability of factors used to assess species status as well as the quality of these assessments. Current information availability and quality to inform Conservation Status Rank for this species are highlighted.

Rank Factor	Assessment Category	Value	Criteria
General Status	Status Quality	Adequate	Calculated rank has low uncertainty and is represented by a single rank (e.g. S3); accepted rank may be adjusted to a range rank (e.g. S2S3)
		Poor	Rank assessed as SU or calculated rank has notable uncertainty and corresponds to a range rank with 2 or more values (e.g. S2?, S1S3, or S4S5)
Rarity	Range Quality	Adequate	Range polygon adequately represents area of probable occupancy and does not include substantial unoccupied areas; range may be adequately defined and still include areas of unsuitable habitat (e.g. mountain ranges for plains species)
		Marginal	Range polygon defined, but may include or exclude notable areas where the species may or may not occur on the landscape
		Poor	Range polygon not defined
	Habitat Quality	Adequate	Species-habitat relationship is well-defined (e.g. relevant literature or robust habitat model available)
		Marginal	Understanding of species-habitat relationship is adequate among some but not all habitats (e.g. literature covers similar habitats outside of Montana or habitat model performance is only somewhat adequate)
		Poor	Species-habitat relationship is not well understood
Threats	Threat Quality	Adequate	Threat Impact is a single value (including "Unthreatened")
		Marginal	Threat Impact assessed at more than one value (e.g. "High - Medium")
		Poor	Threat Impact is Unknown but Intrinsic Vulnerability is assessed
		Unknown	Threat Impact is Unknown and Intrinsic Vulnerability is not assessed
Trends	Recency	Current	Short-term Trend assessment date less than 10 years old
		Out of Date but Adequate	Short-term Trend assessment date is more than 10 years old or Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Out of Date	Short-term Trend assessment date more than 10 years old
		Not Available	Short-term Trend data are not available
	Trend Quality	Sufficient	Short-term Trend assessed at a single value or multiple values with a minimum trend greater than -10% (stable or increasing)
		Unknown but Sufficient	Short-term Trend is Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Poor	Short-term Trend is less than -10% (in decline) with two or more values selected
		Unknown	Short-term Trend is Unknown

Summary of Information Availability

Summary of Information Needs

Additional Threat Details

The table below contains the complete threats assessment for this species. While the Conservation Status Rank Calculation is based on cumulative, broadly categorized (Level 1) threats data, threats are assessed and tracked for more specifically categorized (Level 2) threats when available.

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Assessed By	Data Source	Scope	Severity	Immediacy	Comments
Residential & Commercial Development - 1	2026-06-30	S. Mincemoyer	Expert Opinion	Negligible	Extreme	High	Development continues to result in the loss of some habitat, though this is very small in scope.
Invasive & Other Problematic Species, Genes & Diseases - 8.1 - Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species/Diseases	2026-06-30	S. Mincemoyer	Expert Opinion	Restricted	Serious-Slight	High	Invasive species, including non-native, annual and perennial grasses invade and degrade the species' habitat, potentially out-competing it and altering the functioning and condition of the habitat.