

***Cystopteris utahensis* Windham & Haufler**  
**Utah bladder-fern**

**Family:** Polypodiaceae

**Synonyms:** None

**NESL Status:** G4

**Federal Status:** None

**Plant Description:** Stems creeping, not cordlike, internodes short, heavily beset with old petiole bases, hairs absent; scales lanceolate. Leaves monomorphic, clustered at stem apex, to 45 cm, nearly all bearing sori. Petiole green to straw colored; blade deltate, 2-pinnate-pinnatifid, usually widest at or near the base, apex short-attenuate; rachis and costae with unicellular, gland-tipped hairs. Sporulating summer to fall.

**Similar species:** *Cystopteris utahensis* is distinguished from *C. fragilis* by small glands and scaly bulblets near the tip of the frond, as well as dark scales on the underground stem made up of cells with very thick walls.

**Habitat:** Seepages, cracks and ledges on cliffs; on calcareous substrates including sandstone, limestone, and dacite. Populations are known from 4200 to 8800 ft elevation.

**General Distribution:** Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah.

**Known Distribution on the Navajo Nation:** Only known from Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Apache County, AZ.

**Potential Navajo Nation Distribution:** Anywhere where habitat is suitable.

**Survey Period:** Best from June through August, but can be identified any time fertile fronds are available. Suitable habitat can be identified year round.

**Avoidance:** A 200 ft buffer zone is recommended to avoid disturbance; may be more or less, depending on size and nature of the project. Any activity impacting groundwater will need special consideration.

**References:**

Flora of North America Editorial Committee. 1993. Flora of North America Vol.2. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York.

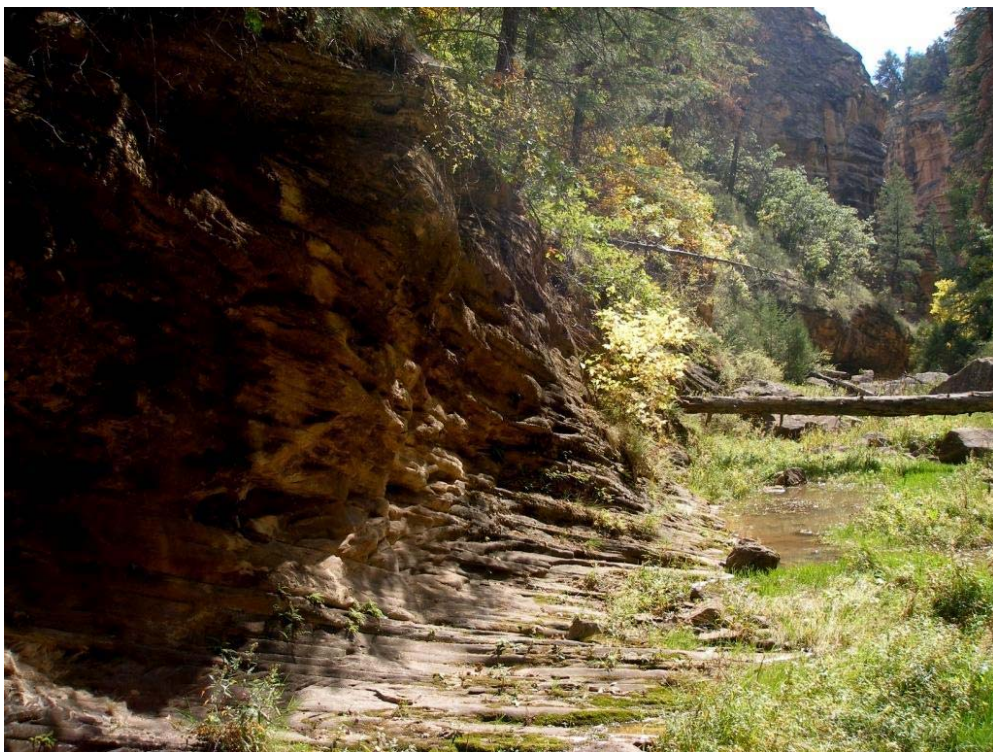
Haufler C.H., and M.D. Windham. 1991. A New Species of North American *Cystopteris* and *Polypodium*, with comments on their reticulate relationships. American Fern Journal Vol. 81 (1): 7 – 15.

Utah Rare Plant Guide Team. 2003. Utah Rare Plant Guide. Utah Native Plant Society.  
<http://www.utahrareplants.org/>



*Cystopteris utahensis*

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*Cystopteris utahensis* habitat

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