

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

AGROSTIS OREGONENSIS
OREGON BENTGRASS
Family: Poaceae

Status:

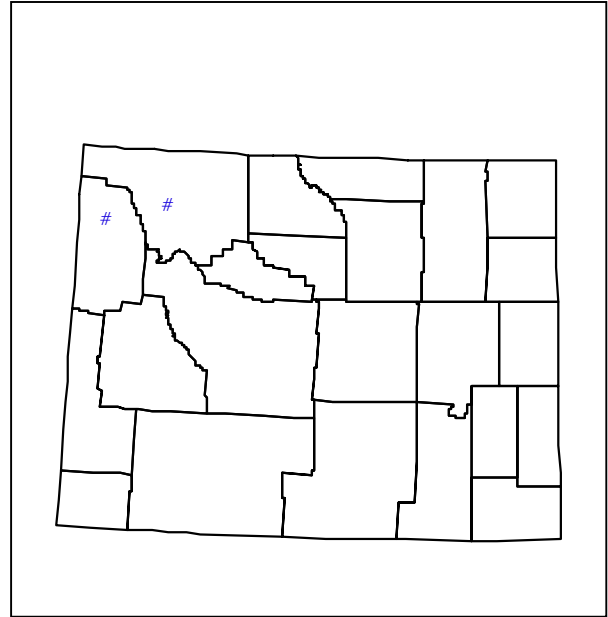
US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral
(Low Conservation Priority)

Description: Oregon bentgrass is a tufted perennial graminoid with culms 30-80 cm tall. Leaf blades are mostly 2-4 mm wide, flat, and minutely scabrous. Ligules are blunt to acute, 2-4 mm long, and ciliate to lacerate on the margins. The inflorescence is a multi-branched, open panicle 10-30 cm long consisting of short, stiffly-spreading to ascending, whorled branches that are forked and spikelet-bearing below the middle and near the base. Spikelets are straw-colored to green or purplish, with a single, unawned floret that is shorter than the scabrous-margined, 2.5-3 mm long glumes. A palea is present, but very short (usually less than 0.4 mm). Anthers are about 0.4-0.6 mm long (Dorn 1992; Harvey 1993; Hitchcock 1950; Hitchcock et al. 1969).

Similar Species: *Agrostis scabra* has a diffusely-spreading inflorescence of numerous narrow floret-bearing stalks that branch near their tips (or at least above the middle of the branch). *A. idahoensis* has culms typically under 30 cm tall, glumes 1.5-2.5 mm long, and leaves 2mm or less wide. Other *Agrostis* species in Wyoming have better-developed paleas, an annual growth form, or contracted (non-spreading)



Wyoming distribution of *Agrostis oregonensis*.

inflorescences with crowded spikelets (Dorn 1992; Harvey 1993; Hitchcock 1950).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Southern British Columbia to California and Nevada, east to western Montana and northwest Wyoming. In Wyoming, known from historical records in the Teton Range (Teton County) and a recent report from the Absaroka Range (Park County) (Evert 1991).

Habitat: Stream margins, wet meadows, and boggy areas in the mountains (Hitchcock et al. 1969). Wyoming populations occur at 6100-8000 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Confirmed from 2 historical records in Wyoming, the most recent dating from 1900. Recently reported from one location in Park County by Erwin Evert.

Abundance: Reported as "rare" by Evert (1991). Historical populations may not be extant.

Range: Disjunct. Known from the Gros Ventre and Lewis river drainages in Teton Co. and Yellowstone National Park. Reported from the Absaroka Range in Park County by Evert (1991).

Trends: No trend data available. May be extirpated at historical sites.

Protection status: One occurrence is protected within Yellowstone National Park.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Known from Yellowstone National Park. Reported from Bridger-Teton and Shoshone National Forests and Grand Teton National Park.

References:

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Hitchcock, A. S. 1950. Manual of the Grasses of the United States, second edition, revised

by Agnes Chase. USDA Miscellaneous Publications No. 200.

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