

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*CAREX DIANDRA*  
LESSER PANICLED SEDGE  
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.  
Agency Status: USFS R2 sensitive

Heritage Rank:

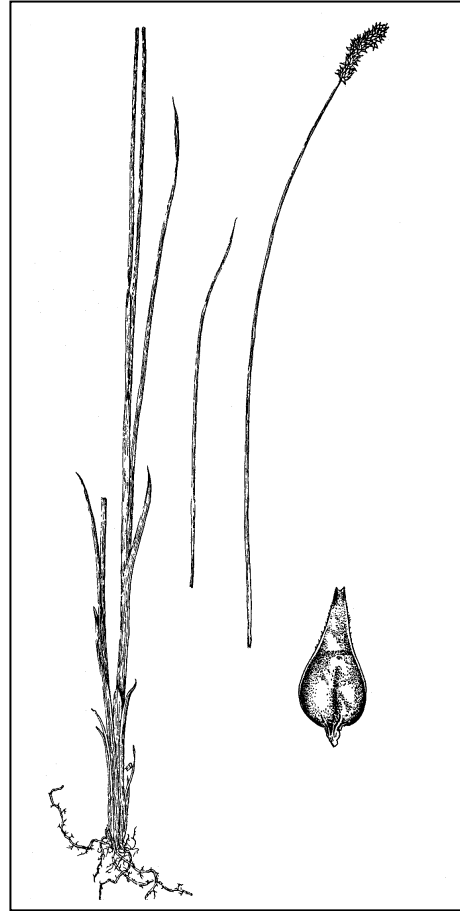
Global: G5 State: S2  
Range Context: Disjunct  
Wyoming Contribution Rank: Medium

Description: Lesser panicled sedge is a densely tufted perennial graminoid with sharply triangular, rough-edged stems (culms) 30-70 cm high. Leaves are 1-3 mm wide with red spots or streaks on their membranous sheaths. The linear, elongated inflorescence is 1.5-6 cm long and composed of numerous individual, but closely compressed, spikes. Pistillate scales are brownish with membranous (hyaline) margins, and are wider, but mostly shorter, than the perigynia. Perigynia are rounded on the back and glossy brown, with a prominently serrate-margined beak that has a distinct dorsal fold, and they are deciduous earlier than most other montane sedges. Achenes are lens-shaped with 2 stigmas (Fertig and Jones 1992; Hermann 1970).

Similar Species: *Carex simulata* is rhizomatous. *C. cusickii* has a longer, less compacted inflorescence and leaf sheaths that are distinctly copper-colored at the tip (Dorn 2001; Hitchcock and Cronquist 1973).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Circumpolar; in North America found from Newfoundland to the Yukon and south to New Jersey, Indiana,

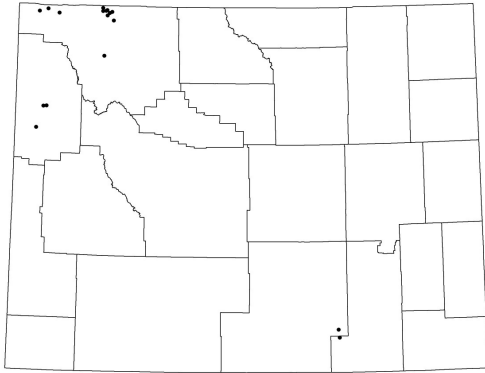


Above: *Carex diandra* from Hermann (1970).

Colorado, and California (Hermann 1970). In Wyoming it is known from the Beartooth, Medicine Bow, Teton, and Absaroka ranges, Jackson Hole and Yellowstone Plateau in Albany, Carbon, Park, and Teton counties.

Habitat: On floating and non-floating moss mats, pond edges, and hummocks in open shrub and sedge meadows at 6100-9700 feet. Water chemistry is often influenced by limestone.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 13-15 recent records (all observed since 1985) and 2 older reports prior to 1963. Several occurrences are in the same general area (although isolated by unsuitable habitat), and perhaps should be considered subpopulations of one larger metapopulation.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *Carex diandra*.

**Abundance:** Individual populations often locally abundant within small areas of suitable habitat.

**Trends:** Extant populations appear to be stable to partly declining due to habitat loss.

**Protection status:** 6 populations are protected in the Swamp Lake Special Botanical Area, Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Other occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use.

**Threats:** May be threatened by trampling, grazing, and development of wetland habitats.

**Managed Areas:** Known from lands managed by Medicine Bow and Shoshone National Forests and Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks.

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