

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CAREX EGGLESTONII
EGGLESTON'S SEDGE
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic
(Medium conservation priority)

Description: Eggleston's sedge is a densely tufted, perennial graminoid with short, woody rootstalks and stiffly erect culms 15-60 (80) cm tall. Leaves number 4-6, are clustered along the lower 1/3 of the culm, and do not exceed the flower heads. Leaf blades are flat and 2-6 mm wide. The broadly oblong, blackish green to golden brown inflorescence is 18-25 mm long and consists of 3-6 densely aggregated spikes with pistillate flowers located above the staminate. Pistillate scales are ovate to lance-shaped, chestnut brown with narrow, white-membranous margins, and distinctly shorter and narrower than the perigynia. The olive-green to brownish perigynia are flattened, 6-8 mm long, and have broad wings that extend to the tip of the flattened, saw-edged, bi-toothed beak. Achenes are 2-sided, 2-2.3 mm long. Pistillate flowers have 2 stigmas (Hermann 1970; Dorn 1992; Hurd et al. 1998).

Similar Species: *Carex xerantica* has a slender inflorescence 2-5 cm long and perigynia that are equal to or shorter than the scales. *Carex petasata* has perigynia with rounded, essentially wingless beaks and an elongate, loosely aggregated inflorescence (Dorn 1992; Hurd et al. 1998).



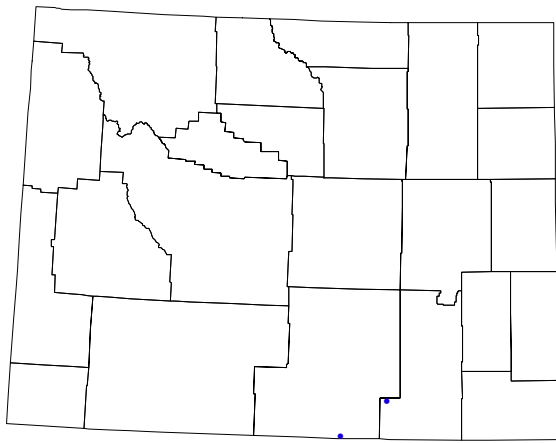
Above: *Carex egglestonii* from Hermann (1970).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Regional endemic of southeastern Wyoming, eastern Utah and central and southwestern Colorado (Hermann 1970; Hurd et al. 1998). In Wyoming, this species is known from the Medicine Bow Range and Sierra Madre in Albany and Carbon counties.

Habitat: Rangewide, this species is found in dry meadows and open slopes at high

elevations (Hurd et al. 1998). Wyoming populations are found in moist forb meadows bordered by spruce-fir forest or at the edge of lodgepole pine-spruce forests in the upper subalpine zone at elevations of 8400-10,400 feet. According to Hermann (1970), *C. egglestonii* "may constitute up to 5 percent of the upland herb plant community particularly if the range is in good or excellent condition.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *Carex egglestonii*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 extant occurrences in Wyoming, both observed since 1988 (most recently in 1991).

Abundance: Reported as "abundant in ungrazed areas" in Wyoming by W.M. Johnson (personal communication reported by Hermann [1970]). Apparently limited to a small geographic area in Wyoming, or quite undercollected.

Trends: Unknown.

Protection status: One population in the Sierra Madre is in the vicinity of the Encampment River Wilderness Area. The

Brooklyn Lake population is within 1-2 miles of the potential Ground Moraine Research Natural Area (Jankovsky-Jones et al. 1995), but is otherwise on lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Threats not known, but may be impacted by recreational activity or grazing. Palatability is moderate to high for domestic livestock.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Medicine Bow National Forest.

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