

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CAREX LIVIDA
LIVID SEDGE
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: USFS Region 2: Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:

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

Description: Livid sedge is a rhizomatous or loosely tufted perennial 10-40 cm tall. Leaves are 1-4 mm wide, deeply grooved down the middle, waxy-bluish-green, and found only on the lower 1/3 of the stem. The uppermost flowering spike is entirely staminate, 1-2.5 cm long, and on a long stalk. The 1-3 lateral spikes are 1-2.5 cm long, all pistillate, and nearly sessile. The bract subtending the lowest spike is leaf-like and up to 7 cm long. Pistillate flower scales are oval with a broad, green midrib stripe, brown marginal stripes, and white-membranous edges. The perigynia are oblong-ovate and taper to the tip, waxy-green (glaucous), and minutely bumpy on the surface. The achenes are three-sided with 3 stigmas (Fertig et al. 1994; Fertig and Jones 1992; Hermann 1970; Hitchcock et al. 1969; Moss 1983).

Similar Species: *Carex aquatilis* has long-stalked spikes and flowers with 2 stigmas. *C. buxbaumii* has pistillate flowers at the tip of the terminal spike and long-tapering (awned) scales. *C. limosa* has drooping spikes on slender stalks (Dorn 2001).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-August.



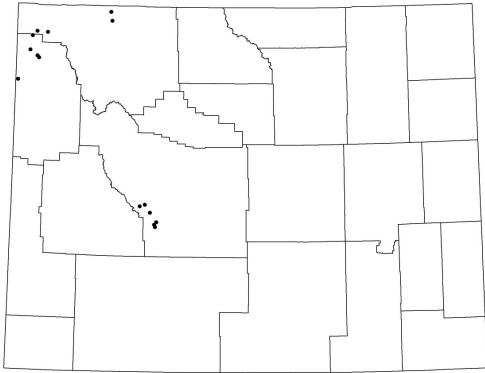
Above: *Carex livida* by B. Heidel.

Distribution: Southern Alaska to Newfoundland, south to California, northwest Montana, Michigan, and New Jersey. Disjunct in Colorado and the Absaroka and Wind River mountains, and Yellowstone Plateau of Wyoming.

Habitat: Floating mats, bogs, fens, and marls dominated by *Carex* species, often on wet hummocks. Elevation 6400-10000 ft.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 15 extant occurrences in Wyoming, all of which have been discovered or relocated since 1991 (most recently in 2007).

Abundance: Populations can be locally abundant, although suitable habitat is sometimes limited.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *C. livida*.

Trends: Probably stable.

Protection Status: At least 8 occurrences are protected within Yellowstone National Park and the Swamp Lake Special Botanical Area.

Threats: Some occurrences in Yellowstone NP could be impacted by road construction and expansion.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Shoshone National Forest and Yellowstone National Park.

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Updated: by Joy Handley 08-01-28