

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CAREX PARRYANA VAR. *UNICA*
HALLS SEDGE
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

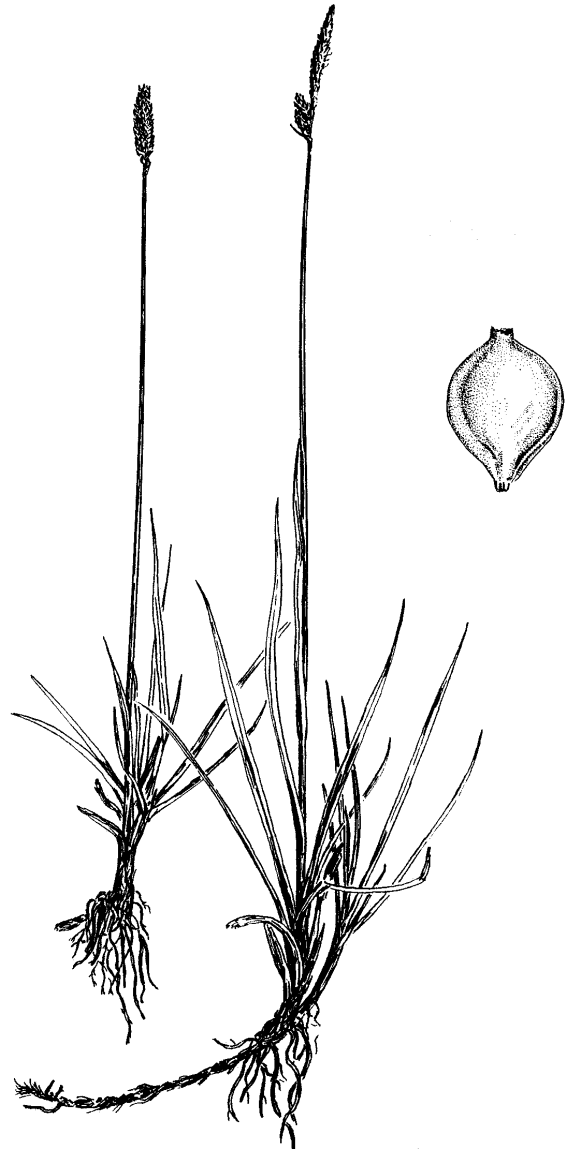
Global: G4?Q State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low
conservation priority)

Description: Hall's sedge is a perennial graminoid with slender culms 1-6 dm tall that are clustered along short, scaly rhizomes. The leaves are crowded near the base, flat or rolled, 2-4 mm wide and much shorter than the culms. The inflorescence consists of 1-5 erect, cigar-shaped spikes each 1-3 cm long, the terminal one longer and thicker than the lateral ones. Terminal spikes may consist only of pistillate flowers (or occasionally contain all male flowers). The perigynia are flat on 1 side, rounded and slightly hairy near the tip, and 2-3 mm long and 1.5-2 mm wide with a bitoothed beak. Flowering scales are as long as the perigynia and have a conspicuous green central stripe (Dorn 1992; Murray 1969).

Synonyms: *Carex hallii*, *Carex parryana* ssp. *hallii*.

Similar Species: *Carex parryana* var. *parryana* has 1 to several lateral spikes that are equal in size and thickness to the terminal spike. *C. parryana* var. *idaho* has flowering scales that are conspicuously longer than the perigynium. *Carex scirpoidea* has a single terminal spike and flowering scales that lack a green midrib (Dorn 1992).



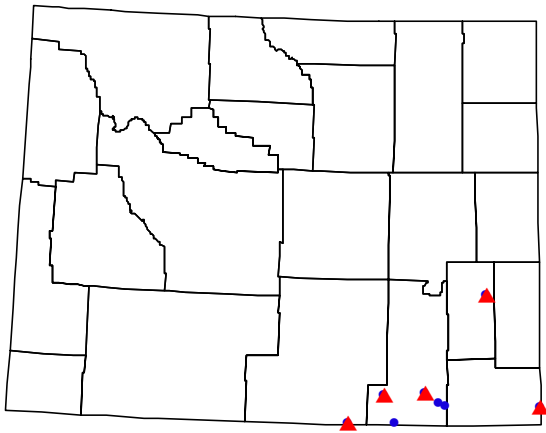
Above: *Carex parryana* var. *unica* from Hermann (1970).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June - August

Distribution: Var. *unica* ranges from southwestern Manitoba to Nebraska and Colorado. In Wyoming it is known from the Southeastern Plains, Hartville Uplift, Laramie Basin, and Laramie Range in Albany, Carbon, Laramie, and Platte counties. Reports from Yellowstone National Park (Park or Teton

counties) are probably based on historical reports from Idaho.

Habitat: Reported from “low prairies, sandy sloughs, and low montane areas” (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). In Wyoming, this taxon occurs in cold springs and montane wet meadows at 5100-8500 feet.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *Carex parryana* var. *unica*. Extant populations in blue (circles) and historical records in red (triangles).

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 6 locations in Wyoming, 5 of which are historical (all observed between 1894-1900). The most recent confirmed observation was in 2000

Abundance: Not known, possibly extirpated over much of Wyoming.

Trends: Historically, the trend for this species appears to be down, although this may reflect incomplete sampling.

Protection status: Reported from Yellowstone National Park by Murray (1969), but no specimen is cited. Murray's report may be based on a misinterpretation of the type locality (now thought to be in Idaho). All other known populations are on lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be threatened by habitat loss in riparian areas.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Medicine Bow National Forest.

References:

Bailey, L.H. 1889. Studies of the types of various species of the genus *Carex*. Notes on *Carex* -XI. Memoirs Torrey Botanical Club 1 (1):1-85.

Burke, M. 2000. Survey of selected rare plant species in the Pole Mountain area of Medicine Bow National Forest. Report prepared for University of Wyoming Botany Department.

Cronquist, A., A.H. Holmgren, N.H. Holmgren, J.L. Reveal, and P.K. Holmgren. Volume 6, The Monocotyledons. Intermountain Flora: Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, USA. Columbia University Press, New York.

Dorn, R.D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, second edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Hermann, F.J. 1970. Manual of the Carices of the Rocky Mountains and Colorado Basin. Agriculture Handbook 374: 1-397. USDA Forest Service, Washington DC.

Murray, D. F. 1969. Taxonomy of *Carex* sect. *Atratae* (Cyperaceae) in the southern Rocky Mountains. Brittonia 21: 55-76.

Rydberg, P.A. 1900. Catalogue of the flora of Montana and the Yellowstone National Park. Memoirs NY Botanical Garden 1:1-492.

Welp, L., W.F. Fertig, G.P. Jones, G.P. Beauvais, and S.M. Ogle. 2000. Fine filter analysis of the Bighorn, Medicine Bow, and Shoshone National Forests in Wyoming. Report prepared for the US Forest Service Region 2 by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Author: Walter Fertig

Updated: 99-12-06