

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*DICHANTHELIUM LINEARIFOLIUM*  
SLIM-LEAF WITCHGRASS  
Family: Poaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

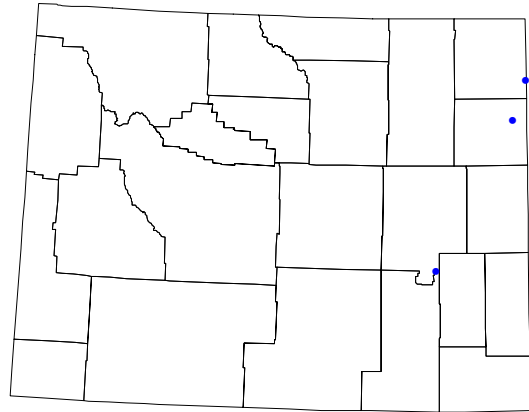
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct

(Medium Conservation Priority)

Description: Slim-leaf witchgrass is a tufted perennial grass, 10-45 cm tall. Leaves are mostly along the stem, 5-21 cm long and 1-4 mm wide with densely pilose sheaths. Typically, there are many dead brown blades at the base. The ligule is a ring of hairs. The inflorescence is a slender panicle, 3-8 cm long, produced in the spring, with reduced secondary panicles produced near the base of the plant during summer and fall. Spikelets are 2.2-3 mm long, glabrous (or nearly so), rounded at the tips, strongly flattened, and with many prominent parallel nerves. The first (lowest) lemma strongly resembles the second (upper) beakless glume and both greatly exceed the small first glume. The uppermost floret is as long as the second glume and lower floret. The second lemma is shiny and hardened, closely enveloping the palea (Hitchcock 1950; Dorn 1992; Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

Synonyms: *Panicum linearifolium*

Similar Species: *Dichanthelium* [*Panicum*] *wilcoxianum* has densely clustered basal leaves and hairy spikelets. *D. oligosanthos* var. *scribnerianum* has broad (4-10 mm) leaf blades and hairy spikelets. *D. depauperatum* has spikelets 3.1-4.5 mm long with the upper



Wyoming distribution of *Dichanthelium linearifolium*.

floret shorter than the short-beaked second glume and glabrate sheaths. *Panicum capillare* is an annual with sharply pointed spikelets and leaf blades 4-12 mm wide.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May - September.

Distribution: Occurs from Quebec, Ontario, and North Dakota, south to Florida, Texas and New Mexico. In Wyoming it is known only from the Black Hills and northern Laramie Range in Albany, Crook, and Weston counties.

Habitat: Occurs in grasslands and open woods, often in dry, stony, or sandy sites. Wyoming populations are often found in Ponderosa pine woods on sandy soils or granite outcrops at 4700-6600 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 extant populations in Wyoming, all observed since 1984 (most recently in 1993).

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known occurrences are on public or state lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Not known. Grazing is usually not a threat due to the plant's rock crevice habitat.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Black Hills and Medicine Bow National Forests.

References:

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

Gleason, H.A. and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

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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