

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

ERIOPHORUM SCHEUCHZERI
SCHEUCHZER COTTON-GRASS

Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None

Agency Status: None

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

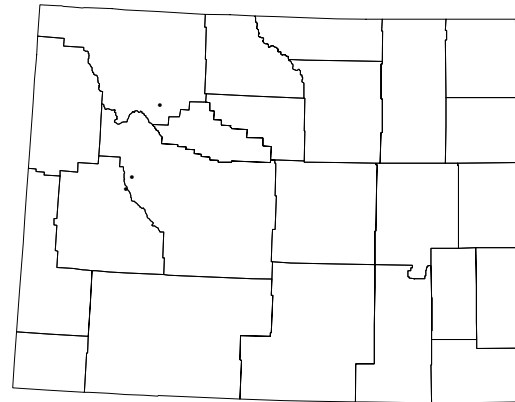
WYNDD Plant List: disjunct (medium conservation priority)

Description: Scheuchzer cotton-grass is a perennial graminoid with long-creeping rhizomes and non-tufted culms 10-30 cm tall. Lower culm leaves are few and consist of inflated sheaths and slender channeled blades about 1 mm wide. The uppermost leaf consists of a dark-tipped, bladeless sheath and is located near the middle of the culm. The inflorescence is a single terminal globose spikelet with narrow, blackish-green, lance-shaped scales that lack a prominent membranous margin. Flowers have anthers 0.5-1 mm long, brown or blackish achenes with an abruptly-pointed style, and numerous white bristles that elongate in fruit to form a "cotton-ball" head (Cronquist et al. 1977; Dorn 1992; Hitchcock et al. 1969).

Similar Species: *Eriophorum chamissonis* is a taller plant with reddish bristles, dark scales with a prominent pale margin, and anthers more than 1 mm long. *E. callitrix* has densely tufted culms (without rhizomes). Other *Eriophorum* species in Wyoming have branched inflorescences with two or more spikelets.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Circumboreal, in North America extending across Alaska and Canada and south to Newfoundland, southern Alberta, and scattered locations in the Rocky Mountains of Montana, western Wyoming, and northern Utah. In Wyoming, known from the Wind River and Absaroka ranges in Fremont, Park, and Sublette counties.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *E. scheuchzeri*.

Habitat: Occurs in bogs, wet streambanks, and willow thickets in the lower alpine zone (Scott 1997). Elevation 9,500-11,000 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from one historical and two extant occurrences in Wyoming, the most recent of which was observed in 1997.

Abundance: Not known, but presumed to be low.

Trends: Unknown.

Protection Status: Two occurrences are found in the Bridger and Fitzpatrick Wilderness Areas. Other known populations are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Could be impacted by high recreation use or alteration of alpine wetland habitats.

Managed Areas: Found in Bridger-Teton and Shoshone National Forests.

References:

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. 1977. Manual of the Vascular Plants of Wyoming. 2 volumes. Garland Publ., INC., New York, NY.

Dorn, R.D. 1988. Vascular Plants of Wyoming. Mountain West Publ., Cheyenne.

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

Fertig, W. 1992. Checklist of the Vascular plant flora of the west slope of the Wind River Range and status report on the sensitive plant species of Bridger-Teton National Forest. Unpublished report prepared for the Bridger-Teton National Forest by the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming.

Fertig, W. 1998. The status of rare plants on Shoshone National Forest: 1995-97 survey results. Report prepared by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Fertig, W. 2000. Rare vascular plant species in the Wyoming portion of the Utah-Wyoming Rocky Mountains Ecoregion. Prepared for the Wyoming Nature

Conservancy by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Hulten, E. 1968. Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories. Stanford University Press. Palo Alto, CA.

Porsild, A.E. and W.J. Cody. 1980. Vascular Plants of Continental Northwest Territories, Canada. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa.

Porter, C.L. 1965. A Flora of Wyoming: Part IV. Bulletin 434:1-88. Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wyoming.

Rosenthal, D.M. 1998. Report on a general floristic survey of vascular plants in selected areas of Shoshone National Forest. Report prepared by the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.

Rosenthal, D.M. 1999. A floristic survey of selected areas in Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming. Master's Thesis, Department of Botany, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.

Scott, R.W. 1997. The Alpine Flora of the Rocky Mountains. Volume 1 The Middle Rockies. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, UT.

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. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Author: Walter Fertig

Updated: 00-11-25