

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

JUNCUS TRIGLUMIS VAR. *ALBESCENS*
NORTHERN WHITE RUSH
Family: Juncaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct

(Medium conservation priority)

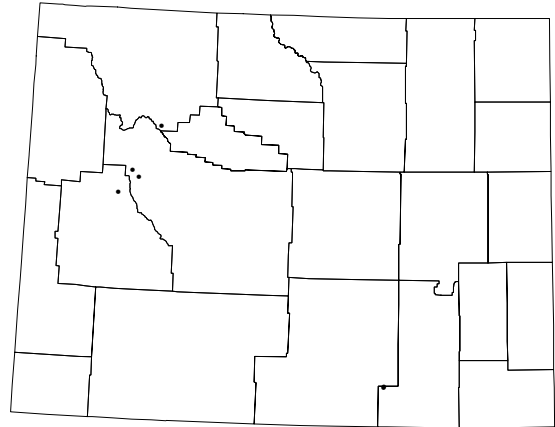
Description: Northern white rush is a tufted perennial with thin, round stems 5-15 cm high. Leaves are all basal, 2-12 cm long, cylindrical, and have raised cross ridges (septa). Two to three flowers are in a single head with two brownish bracts at its base, the lowest with a long-tapering tip. Perianth segments are pale brown or whitish, blunt-tipped, and 4 mm long. The fruit is a brownish, somewhat pointed capsule that approximately equals the perianth. The seeds are 1.3-1.8 mm long with a long appendages at each end (Hitchcock et al. 1969; Dorn 1992).

Synonyms: *Juncus albescens*, *J. triglumis* ssp. *albescens*.

Similar Species: *Juncus biglumis* has purplish or greenish capsules with an indentation or notch at the apex. *J. triglumis* var. *triglumis* has blunt-tipped bracts that are all shorter than the inflorescence and mature capsules longer than the perianth (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Alaska to Newfoundland, south to British Columbia, Montana, Utah,



Wyoming distribution of *Juncus triglumis* var. *albescens*.

and Colorado. In Wyoming it is known from the northern and eastern Wind River, Absaroka and Medicine Bow mountains. Reports from the Beartooth Range are now known to represent var. *triglumis* (Hermann and Weber 1977).

Habitat: Montane streambanks, bogs, and short willow and sedge meadows on wet to saturated soils, sometimes influenced by limestone (elevation 10200-11200 feet).

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 5 extant occurrences, all discovered or relocated since 1990 (most recently in 1998) and one vague, older record in Wyoming.

Abundance: Few data exist on population size, although at least two populations have been reported as locally abundant.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: Two occurrences are protected within designated wilderness areas (Bridger and Fitzpatrick). One wilderness population is also within the potential Arrow Mountain Research Natural Area. All other

known sites are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be impacted by recreational and grazing activities in its wetland habitats.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Bridger-Teton, Medicine Bow, and Shoshone National Forests.

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