

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

JUNCUS VASEYI
VASEY RUSH
JUNCACEAE

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

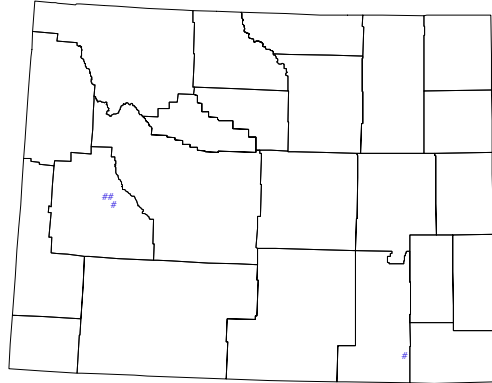
Heritage Rank:

Global: G5? State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (low conservation priority)

Description: Vasey rush is a tufted perennial with slender culms 2-8 dm tall. Leaves are rounded to slightly channeled and restricted to the lower part of the stem. Leaf auricles (ear-like appendages located where the blade joins the stem) are 0.5-2 mm long, rounded, and membranous. The inflorescence is a crowded terminal cyme of 10-50 erect flowers subtended by a single bract equal to or much longer than the inflorescence. Individual flowers are subtended by a pair of small membranous bracteoles and have greenish, unequal, acute perianth segments 3.5-4.5 mm long. Flowers have 6 stamens, with the anthers equal in length to their filaments. Fruits are oblong-cylindric, blunt-tipped, 3-loculed capsules that exceed the perianth at maturity by 1 mm or more. Seeds are 1-1.5 mm long with elongate tails at each end (Great Plains Flora Association 1986; Dorn 1992; Gleason and Cronquist 1991; Hitchcock et al. 1969).

Similar Species: *Juncus hallii* has only 1-7 flowers per stem. *J. confusus* has pointed auricles, striped perianth segments, and anthers shorter than the filaments. *J. tenuis* var. *dudleyi* and *J. interior* have anthers shorter than the filaments and 1-loculed



Wyoming distribution of *Juncus vaseyi*.

capsules (Dorn 1992; Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-September.

Distribution: British Columbia to Quebec, south to Idaho, Colorado, Minnesota, Illinois, and New York. In Wyoming, known from the Laramie and Wind River ranges in Albany and Sublette counties.

Habitat: Rangewide, this species is found mostly at sites with moist, sandy soils. In Wyoming, populations occur on sandy beaches along glacial lakes in the Wind River Range (often at the edge of lodgepole pine or blue spruce woods), or in hummocky wet meadows with rich organic soils in the Laramie Range (7300-8040 feet).

Abundance: Exact population size unknown, although often reported as "common" where it does occur.

Trends: Trends suspected to be stable based on resurvey of 2 of the known populations over time.

Protection status: All known populations are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Threats unknown, although the 3 Sublette County populations occur on lakeshores with moderate to high recreation use. Cattle grazing may occur in the vicinity of the Albany Co. site.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Bridger-Teton and Medicine Bow National Forests.

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