

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

KOBRESIA SIBIRICA
[*KOBRESIA SCHOENOIDES*]
SIBERIAN KOBRESIA
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None

Agency Status: None

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

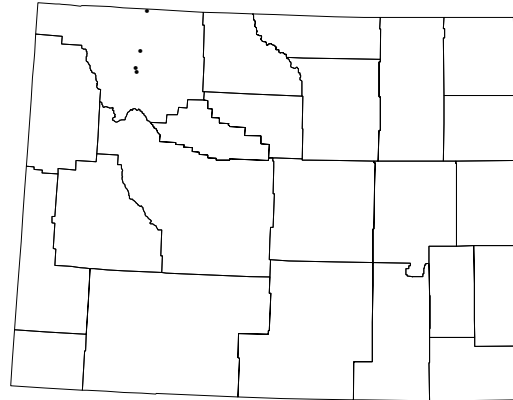
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct (medium conservation priority)

Description: Siberian kobresia is a densely tufted perennial graminoid with few to several erect stems (culms) cloaked at the base by persistent, brownish leaf sheaths. Leaves are strongly inrolled, slender, scabrous on the margins, and may exceed the flowering stems. The inflorescence consists of a single terminal, oblong to ovate spike 4-5 mm wide. Flowering scales are 4-5 mm long, ovate, and dark brown. Perigynia are about 5.5 mm long and scale-like, with the margins free (not fused into a sac-like structure). Fruits are short-stalked brown achenes with 3 stigmas (Hulten 1968; Dorn 1992; Scott 1997)

Synonyms: *Kobresia macrocarpa*; *K. schoenoides*; *K. hyperborea*.

Similar Species: *Kobresia myosuroides* [*K. bellardii*] has linear spikes 2-3 mm wide with scales 2-4 mm long and perigynia 3-3.5 mm long. *K. simpliciuscula* has two or more spikes per stem and occurs in wetland habitats. Single-spiked alpine *Carex* spp. have fused, sac-like perigynia.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Late July-August.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *Kobresia sibirica*

Distribution: Circumpolar, in North America from Alaska to the NW Territories and south in the Rocky Mountains to NW Wyoming and Colorado. In Wyoming known only from the Beartooth and Absaroka ranges.

Habitat: Alpine fellfields and tundra ridges. Often occurs on stony, wind-blown sites dominated by *Geum rossii* turf or rich in cryptogams on solifluction terraces or lobes. Elevation 10,000-11,500 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 occurrences in Wyoming, all of which have been observed since 1981 (most recently in 1999).

Abundance: Census data are lacking for most sites. Surveys in 1996 on the Beartooth Plateau found this species to be locally abundant, but restricted to small areas of suitable microhabitat.

Trends: Not known. May currently be stable, although no data are available to predict past abundance and distribution.

Protection Status: 2 of the 4 occurrences are found within the North Absaroka and

Washakie wilderness areas. Part of one occurrence is within the boundaries of the proposed Line Creek Research Natural Area.

Threats: Most colonies are probably not threatened at present, although they may have been impacted in the past by sheep grazing.

Managed Areas: Found on the Shoshone National Forest.

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