

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

KOBRESIA SIMPLICIUSCULA
SIMPLE KOBRESIA
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None
Agency Status: USFS R2 sensitive

Heritage Rank:

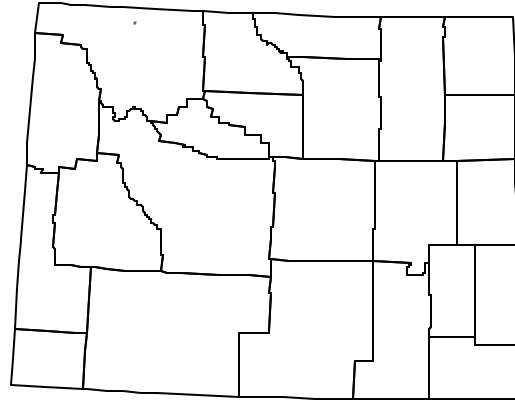
Global: G5 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct (medium conservation priority)

Description: Simple kobresia is a densely tufted perennial graminoid with stems (culms) 10-35 cm tall clothed with persistent leaves at the base. Leaves are about 1 mm wide, erect to strongly curved, and shorter than the flowering stems. The inflorescence is 1.5-4 cm long and 5-8 mm wide and consists of 3-12 spikes. Terminal spikes contain all staminate flowers, while lower spikes contain both sexes or only pistillate flowers. Flowering scales are brown and shorter than the perigynia. Perigynia are 2.5-2.7 mm long and split down their inner side nearly to the base to expose the grayish brown achenes. Stigmas 3 (Hulten 1968; Hitchcock et al. 1969; Porsild and Cody 1980; Dorn 1992).

Similar Species: *Kobresia schoenoides* and *K. myosuroides* have solitary terminal spikes. *Carex* spp. have perigynia fused into a sac-like structure that completely enclosed the achene.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July- August.

Distribution: Circumpolar, in North America from Alaska to Greenland south to New Brunswick, northern Ontario, Alberta and in the Rocky Mountains south to Montana,



Above: Wyoming distribution of *K. simpliciuscula*.

Utah, northwest Wyoming and central Colorado. In Wyoming, known only from the Clarks Fork Valley in the northern Absaroka Range (Park County).

Habitat: In Wyoming, occurs in flooded marl wetlands dominated by quaking mats of *Carex simulata* or *Triglochin maritimum* at 6000 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single occurrence in Wyoming, discovered in 1984 and last observed in 1999.

Abundance: Entire state population restricted to a wetland covering ca 1.5 square miles. The actual area of occupied or suitable habitat may be limited to 20 acres.

Trends: Not known.

Protection Status: The only known occurrence in the state is protected within the Swamp Lake Special Botanical Area.

Threats: May be potentially impacted by changes in hydrology of the Swamp Lake wetland.

Managed Areas: Found in Shoshone National Forest.

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