

LUZULA GLABRATA VAR.
HITCHCOCKII
SMOOTH WOOD-RUSH
Family: Juncaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None
Agency Status: None

Heritage Rank:

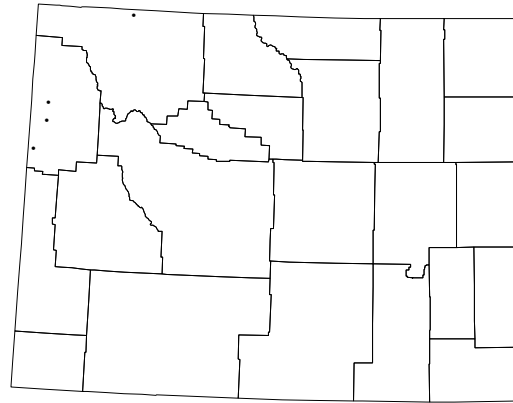
Global: G5T4 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (low
conservation priority)

Description: Smooth wood-rush is a perennial graminoid with single or loosely clustered stems (culms) 15-50 cm tall from a short rhizome. Leaves are 2-6 cm long and have flat blades. Basal leaves are linear-lanceolate and glabrous, while stem leaves are more broadly lance-shaped and have long, soft hairs at the base of the blade. The inflorescence is an open panicle 3-8 cm long with thin, nodding to erect flower branches. Flowers consist of 6 sharp-tipped, purplish-brown to chestnut perianth segments 2.5-3.5 mm long. Each flower is subtended by a pair of irregularly-toothed bracts. Anthers are 0.8-1.2 mm long and are much longer than their filaments. Fruits are ovate capsules with a beak-like style ca 1 mm long (Hitchcock et al. 1969; Scott 1997).

Synonyms: *Luzula hitchcockii*

Similar Species: *Luzula parviflora* and *L. wahlenbergii* have perianth segments less than 2.5 mm long, styles under 0.5 mm long (fruits do not appear beaked), and anthers less than 1 mm long. *L. spicata* and *L. campestris* have flowers in head-like or elongate spikes.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-September.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *L. glabrata* var. *hitchcockii*.

Distribution: Southern British Columbia and southwestern Alberta to Oregon, northern Idaho, and northwest Wyoming. In Wyoming, known from the Beartooth and Teton ranges in Park and Teton counties.

Habitat: In Wyoming this species occurs in openings within subalpine fir-Englemann spruce or whitebark pine forests or rock slides at 8,500-9,300 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 extant occurrences in Wyoming (most recently observed in 1999) and 1 historical record.

Abundance: Not known, although reported as "common" at Holly Cirque by R. Shaw (1976).

Trends: Not known.

Protection Status: 2 of the 5 known occurrences are protected in Grand Teton NP. The Beartooth Mountains occurrence is probably located within the potential Beartooth Butte Research Natural Area.

Threats: Not known.

WY: Grand Teton Natural History Association.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Shoshone, Bridger-Teton, and Targhee National Forests and Grand Teton National Park.

Author: Walter Fertig
Updated: 00-11-25

References:

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

Jones, G.P. and W. Fertig. 1999. Ecological evaluation of the potential Beartooth Butte Research Natural Area within the Shoshone National Forest, Park County, Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared for the Shoshone National Forest, USDA Forest Service by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming.

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

Shaw, R.J. 1976. Field guide to the vascular plants of Grand Teton National Park and Teton County, Wyoming. Logan: Utah State University Press.

Shaw, R.J. 1992. Annotated checklist of the vascular plants of Grand Teton National Park and Teton County, Wyoming. Moose,