**Schoenoplectus saximontanus**  
**[Scirpus saximontanus]**  
**Rocky Mountain Bulrush**  
**Family: Cyperaceae**

**Status:**  
US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.  
Agency Status: None.

**Heritage Rank:**  
Global: G5  
State: S1  
WYNNDD Plant List: Peripheral  
Medium Wyoming Significance

**Description:** Rocky Mountain bulrush is a small, annual graminoid with terete stems 1-2 (up to 4) dm tall. Leaves are grass-like, mostly clustered at the base, those on the stem with very short (mostly < 1 cm) blades. The inflorescence consists of 2-8 ovoid to short-cylindrical spikes that appear to emerge from well below the stem apex. Each spike has numerous, inconspicuous flowers, each subtended by an awn-tipped, scale-like bract, and each with 3 styles. Achenes are light green and finely and conspicuously cross-ridged, the ridges imparting a rippled appearance to the surface (Cronquist et al. 1977, Larson 1993).

**Synonyms:** *Scirpus saximontanus*

**Similar Species:** *Scirpus pungens* is a rhizomatous perennial with 3-angular stems, smooth achenes, and scales without awn-tips. *S. nevadensis* is also a rhizomatous perennial, with 2 styles, and achenes which are reticulate rather than cross-ridged (Great Plains Flora Association 1986, Cronquist et al. 1977).

**Flowering/Fruiting Period:** July – August.

**Distribution:** Great Plains west to Colorado and Wyoming, south to northern Mexico (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). In Wyoming, known only from the southeastern plains in Goshen County.

**Habitat:** Shorelines and ditches on clay soil (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). Wyoming populations occur along ponds in chalky plains at 4480–4560 feet.


**Abundance:** Population size not known, but probably restricted to a small area.

**Trends:** Not known.

**Protection status:** No occurrences are found in special management areas.

**Threats:** Not known. May be impacted by changes in hydrology.

**Managed Areas:** May occur on lands managed by the BLM Casper District.

**References:**  


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Updated: 12-10-01