

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

SCHOENOPLECTUS SAXIMONTANUS
[*SCIRPUS SAXIMONTANUS*]
ROCKY MOUNTAIN BULRUSH
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral
Medium Wyoming Significance

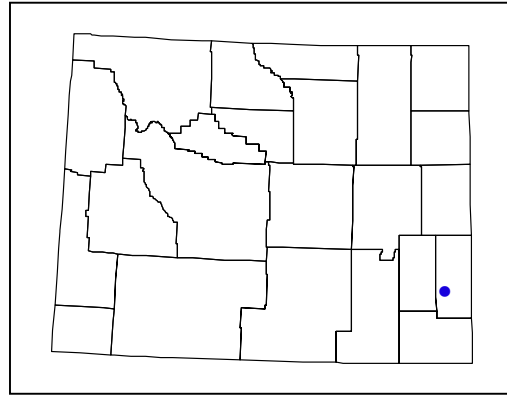
Description: Rocky Mountain bulrush is a small, annual graminoid with terete stems 1-2 (up to 4) dm tall. Leaves are grass-like, mostly clustered at the base, those on the stem with very short (mostly < 1 cm) blades. The inflorescence consists of 2-8 ovoid to short-cylindrical spikes that appear to emerge 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-angled 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.



Wyoming distribution of *Scirpus saximontanus*

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

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single occurrence in Wyoming, discovered by B. E. Nelson in 1993.

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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Larson, G.E. 1993. Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the Northern Great Plains. General Technical Report – RM 238. Fort Collins, CO. USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.

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