

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*SELAGINELLA SELAGINOIDES*  
LOW SPIKE-MOSS  
Family: Selaginellaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

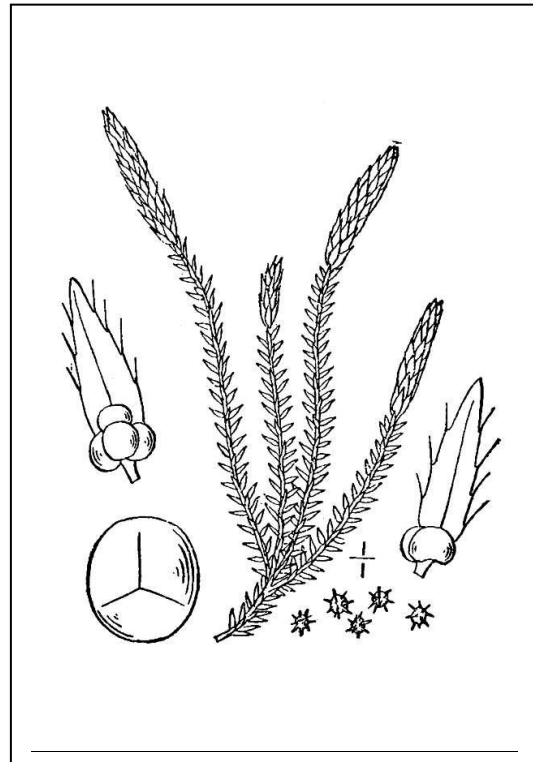
Global: G5 State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct  
High Wyoming Significance

Description: Low spike-moss is a moss-like, glabrous, perennial herb with slender branched, prostrate, sterile stems and ascending fertile stems arising 3-10 cm above the ground. The thin, narrowly lance-shaped leaves are 1-3 mm long, spirally arranged on the stem, and have bristles on the margin though not on the tip. The upper leaves of fertile stems are larger, with spore-bearing receptacles at their base (Dorn 1992, Holmgren 1942, Hitchcock et al. 1969).

Similar Species: Other species of *Selaginella* have bristle-tipped leaves, a dorsal midvein, 4-angled fertile stems, and occur in rock outcrops or dry, gravelly soils.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Spores produced July - August.

Distribution: Ranging across the Northern Hemisphere, in North America extending south as far as Nevada and Wyoming, Michigan and Maine. Wyoming populations are known from the upper Green River Basin, foothills of the Wind River Range, and Teton Range in Sublette and Teton counties.

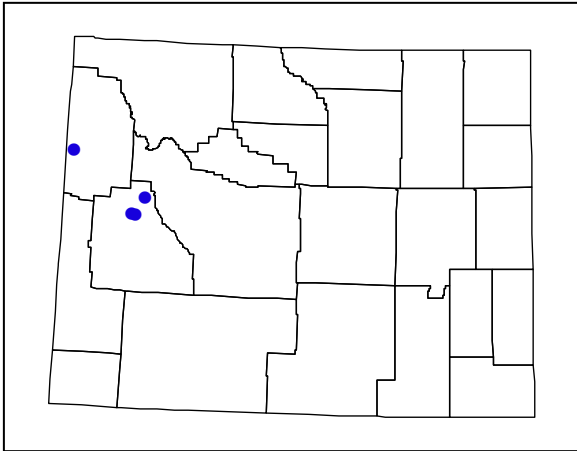


Above: *Selaginella selaginoides*;  
macrospores and macrosporangia to left;  
microspores and microsporangia to right.  
From Britton and Brown 1913.

Below: *Selaginella selaginoides* by Jennifer Whipple



Habitat: Grows on mossy banks and saturated moss-covered zones in wet meadows, at 7,700 - 8,000 ft. in Wyoming.



Wyoming distribution of *Selaginella selaginoides*

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 6 occurrences in Wyoming, 3 of which are extant (most recently observed in 2003) and 3 which are historical. In addition, a Yellowstone National Park collection record is unmappable.

Abundance: Populations are usually small and restricted to specialized microhabitats.

Trends: Unknown. Some wetland sites near the New Fork Lakes in the Wind River Range may have been destroyed during dam and campground construction in the 1930s.

Protection status: One occurrence is protected in Yellowstone National Park. All other known sites are on public lands managed for multiple use (primarily recreation and livestock grazing).

Threats: Dam construction, diversion or habitat loss from subdivision are potential threats in the Upper Green River Basin.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Bridger-Teton and Targhee National Forests, the BLM Pinedale Field Office, and Yellowstone National Park.

References:

Achuff, P.L. and L.S. Roe. 1992. Botanical survey of the Goat Flat Proposed Research Natural Area. Unpublished report to the Deerlodge National Forest. Montana Natural Heritage Program, Helena.

Colorado Native Plant Society. 1997. Rare Plants of Colorado, second edition. Falcon Press Publ., Helena, MT.

Cronquist, A., A.H. Holmgren, N.H. Holmgren, and J.L. Reveal. 1972. Intermountain Flora, Volume 1: Geological and Botanical History of the Region, its Plant Geography and a Glossary. The Vascular Cryptogams and the Gymnosperms. The New York Botanical Garden, New York.

Dorn, R.D. 2001. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, third edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Dorn, R.D. and J. Dorn. 1972. Ferns and other Pteridophytes of Montana, Wyoming, and the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Heidel, B. and J. Handley. 2006. *Selaginella selaginoides* (L.) Beauv. ex Mart. & Schrank (club spikemoss): a technical conservation assessment. [Online]. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/scp/assessments.pdf>

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, and M. Owenbey. 1969. Pt. 1. Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons, IN: Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest. University of Washington Publications in Biology 17(1): 1-914.

Author: Stuart Markow and Walter Fertig  
Updated: 05-11-10 Bonnie Heidel

