***Carex vernacula* Bailey – native sedge**

**Cyperaceae** **– Sedge Family**

Account written by Beth Corbin, 9 December 2020 version (Updated 1/16/2022)

Rank **S2S3** Recommended by Rare Plant Working Group on 12/4/2020

**Current Conservation Status:**

\*NatureServe3: G5 SNR (not recorded for Idaho) [S1 WY; S2 OR; S3? CO; SRN CA, NV, & WA]

2009 INPS rank²: Not listed

BLM (Idaho): None (2019)

FS Reg 1: None (2011)

FS Reg 4: None (2013)

FS Reg 6: Oregon-Sensitive (2011)

FWS: None

**Taxonomy:** Published by Bailey in Bull. Torrey Cot. Club 20:417 in 1893. Sometimes treated as *Carex foetida* All. var. *vernacula* (Bailey) Kukenthal (published in 1909), but *C. vernacula* used by FPNW2, NatureServe, USDA PLANTS, FNA, & Jepson2.

*Synonyms:* *Carex foetida* var. *vernacula* (IMF, FPNW)

*Other Subspecies/Varieties, if applicable:* NA

*Type Locality:* “Mountains from Colorado and Wyoming westward”; no type specified, per IMF.

*\*Taxonomic key(s)7:* FPNW2, IMF Vol. 6 (as C. foetida), FNA Vol 23.

**Species Description (OPTIONAL):** Rhizomatous perennial with a compact head of androgynous spikes.

**Biology:** Perennial graminoid; reproduces by presumably seed and rhizomes; flowers in Idaho July to September.

**Similar species:** Other Carex.

**Habitat:** Elevation ca. 9,000-10,500 feet. Moist meadows, streams, benches in lodgepole, spruce, or alpine communities; substrate gravel to clay.

*\*֎Environmental Specificity10:* Narrow (subalpine meadows).

**Cultural and commercial values:** Unknown.

**Landownership:**  Federal – USFS (Challis, Sawtooth, & Targhee National Forests)

**Distribution:**

*Global Range*: Western US.

*\*Range Extent Descriptor6:* Peripheral in Idaho

֎*Rank Calculator Idaho Range Extent:* SW EOs in a polygon of about 82 mi², plus 3 other single EOs, so about 86 mi² = B. RPWG: More habitat available around the separate EOs, so use BC (40-400 mi²) for Range Extent.

֎*Area of Occupancy:* 7 small EOs so assume 7 4-km² grid cells = D

*\*Idaho Counties9:*  Custer, Fremont, & Lemhi

*Idaho Specimens:* See separate sheet

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| **Record source (Herbarium, IFWIS, person)** | **Date observed/ collected** | **Observer** | **County** | **Location** | **Abundance, threats, habitat condition** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

*Literature Records:* No specific records in literature.

*Databases/Herbaria consulted (and query date):* CPNWH (11/11/20 & 1/16/22), Consortium of Intermountain Herbaria (11/11/20), SEINet (11/11/20), CCH2 (11/11/20)

*Research Notes:*

* Davidson 13192B (at SRP and WTU) – Peter Zika determined the WTU specimen was not C. vernacula; see August 1, 2021 email. (Not annotated as of 1/16/22.)
* Henderson’s Cooper Basin collection is actually *C. douglasii*; Ben Legler has confirmed and annotated this sheet at ID.

**Abundance:**

*\*֎Number of Occurrences8:* 7 = B

*֎Population Size:* Unknown. Most collections do not note abundance, but 3 recorded (respectively): common, locally common, and occasional.

*֎Number of Occurrences with Good Viability:* No more than 7 = C.

**Conservation concerns:**

*֎Threats (include scope, severity and timing, if known):* Climate change, especially for high elevation occurrences. Roads for lowest elevation EO.

*\*֎Overall Threat Rank11:* Preliminary High-Medium. RPWG: Use Medium-Low threats because Targhee EO in an RNA, and most EOs have little threats besides climate change (uncertain) = CD.

*֎Intrinsic Vulnerability:*

**Population trend:**

*֎Short:* Unknown. No EOs have been revisited.

*֎Long:* Unknown

**Proposed rank information:**

*\*Date Ranked5:* Preliminary 11/12/2020; RPWG 12/4/2020 (Number of EOs edited January 2022; no change in ranking)

*\*Proposed Rank:* Preliminary S2; RPWG calculated and recommended S2S3.

*\*Proposed INPS Status2:* Add as RARE

*\*Comments12:*

RPWG 12/4/20 Comments: Rose – Targhee site has plants common and is in an RNA; threats not so high. Don – will follow up with Zika on identification of Warren Wagon specimen; thinks range extent could be larger because lots of potential habitat in these mountain ranges. Barbara – sedges undercollected so not a good measure of abundance. Lynn – Does it smell foetid? (probably not). Kristin & Brittni – Warren Wagon EO seems unlikely; hold off on recommending Payette NF sensitive until identification confirmed. Change Threats to CD (Medium-Low) and Range Extent to BC (100-1000 km²), resulting in calculated rank S2S3 to capture the uncertainty discussed.

**\*Recommended actions13:**

Recommend USFS manage as a Sensitive species. (Challis, Sawtooth, Targhee NFs)