

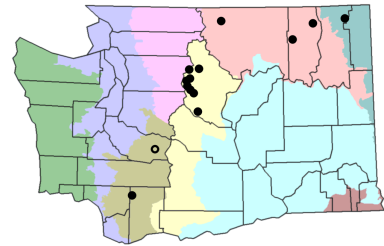
***Carex proposita* Mack.**

Smoky Mountain sedge

Cyperaceae - sedge family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4 / S2



General Description: Tufted dwarf perennial 1-3 dm tall. Leaves narrow and firm, 6-20 cm x (0.5) 1-2 (2.5) mm, folded, or margins rolled under.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence dense or open, longer than wide, 1.7-3 cm x 11-18 mm. Spikes 3-6, widely spaced to loosely aggregated, sessile, broadly ovoid, 10-15 x 7-9 mm. Terminal spike gynaeandrous; lateral spikes gynaeandrous or entirely female. Female scales gold or reddish to dark brown, with pale midstripes, lanceolate to ovate, 3.5-4.8 mm, usually much narrower and somewhat shorter than the perigynia. Anthers long-persistent. Perigynia ascending to spreading, gold or coppery, conspicuously veined dorsally and often ventrally, ovate, 4-6 x 2-3 mm wide, wing-margined with a crinkled edge. Beak cylindrical, unwinged, with margins entire for (0.3) 0.5-0.9 mm from the tip, ciliate or toothed on perigynium body. Stigmas 2.

Fruits: Achenes lenticular, 1.5-2.1 mm long. Identifiable July to August.

Identification Tips: *Carex proposita* is similar to *C. microptera* and *C. haydeniana*. However, the leaves of *C. proposita* are less than 2.5 mm wide and often folded or with margins rolled under; its inflorescence is loose, forming a head generally longer than wide. The leaves of *C. microptera* and *C. haydeniana* are 1.5-5 mm wide and flat or nearly so; they have a dense inflorescence that is typically spherical to ovoid.

Range: B.C., mountains of central ID, the Wenatchee Mts. and elsewhere in WA, CA, and WY.

Habitat/Ecology: Open, dry, rocky slopes and ridges, and dry meadows near lakes and streams; often on talus or granite, near or above timberline. Elevations in WA: 1370-2350 m (4500-7700 ft). Associated species include subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), subalpine larch (*Larix lyallii*), whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), sedges (*Carex nardina*, *C. breweri*, *C. phaeocephala*), alpine pussy-toes (*Antennaria alpina*), spreading phlox (*Phlox diffusa*), black crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), and alpine fescue (*Festuca brachyphylla* ssp. *brachyphylla*).

Comments: All WA occurrences are on land managed by the U.S. Forest Service. This species may have been extirpated from WY.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 23.



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