

## Spartina pectinata - Scirpus pungens Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Freshwater Cord Grass - Three-Square Bulrush Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	Prairie Cordgrass - Bulrush Wet Meadow
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION	Temporarily flooded temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.j.)
ALLIANCE	<i>Spartina pectinata</i> Temporarily Flooded Herbaceous Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

### RANGE

*Globally*

This community is found in eastern Wyoming and eastern Montana.

### *Devils Tower National Monument*

This community occurs along the Belle Fourche River and as isolated small stands in the abandoned river channel.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

*Globally*

This community is usually found as narrow bands along the margins of low gradient or standing open water and in depressions where the soil is saturated or flooded for short periods during the growing season (Jones and Walford 1995). Soils are fine textured and often have a high organic content.

### *Devils Tower National Monument*

This community occurs on level sites on alluvial soils along the Belle Fourche River and as small stands in the abandoned river channel.

### MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

*Globally*

<u>Strata</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Scirpus pungens, Spartina pectinata</i>

### *Devils Tower National Monument*

<u>Strata</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>

### DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

*Globally*

*Spartina pectinata, Scirpus pungens*

### *Devils Tower National Monument*

*Spartina pectinata*

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program**  
**Devils Tower National Monument**

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VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

*Globally*

This community is dominated by tall graminoids approximately 1-2 meters tall. Vegetation cover is usually high. *Spartina pectinata* is dominant and can form near monocultures. *Scirpus pungens*, *Poa pratensis*, *Carex praegracilis*, and *Carex nebrascensis* are all common constituents of the herbaceous stratum (Jones 1992). Shrubs and trees are not abundant, but *Salix* spp. can be found in many stands.

*Devils Tower National Monument*

This community is strongly dominated by *Spartina pectinata* on the banks of the Belle Fourche River. In the abandoned river channel, *S. pectinata* is dominant but *Poa pratensis* also is common. At Devils Tower NM, *Scirpus pungens* was not observed in stands of this community during this study. However, it has been found in the park (Marriott 1982).

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G3Q

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE CEGL001478

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

Jones, G. 1992. Wyoming plant community classification. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, The Nature Conservancy, Laramie, WY. 184 pp.

Jones, G. and G. Walford. 1995. Major riparian vegetation types of eastern Wyoming. A report submitted to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division. 245 pp.

Marriott, H. J. 1982. Devils Tower National Monument Plant Checklist. Unpublished report for the Devils Tower Natural History Association.