

Juncus balticus Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME Baltic Rush Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM Baltic Rush 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 Seasonally flooded temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.k)
ALLIANCE JUNCUS BALTICUS SEASONALLY FLOODED
HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE
CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1
USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM PALUSTRINE

RANGE

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*) stands are rare and patchy within the Refuge.

Globally

This Baltic rush wet meadow community is found widely throughout the western United States, ranging from South Dakota and Montana west to Washington, south to possibly California, and east to New Mexico.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

Stands are usually less than 0.5 ha in size and occur in poorly drained sites where the soil is saturated for most of the growing season.

Globally

This widespread herbaceous wetland community is found throughout western North America. Elevation ranges from 1420-3500 m. Stands usually occur as small, dense patches on flat to gently sloping sites near seeps and streams. Stream channels are highly variable in size and type ranging from narrow to moderately wide, and deeply entrenched to very sinuous (Kittel et al. 1999). Soils are also variable and range from alluvial sandy and well-drained, to poorly drained silty clay loam, to organic; however, soils tend to be finer-textured, alkaline and may be saline (Brotherson and Barnes, Kittel et al. 1999, Padgett et al. 1989). Cobbles and gravel are common on many sites, and gleyed and mottled horizons are often present because of flooding or high water tables (Kittel et al. 1999).

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

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<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
GRAMINOID	<i>Carex nebrascensis</i>

LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge Vegetation Mapping Project

Globally

Stratum

GRAMINOID

Species

Carex nebrascensis, *Carex praegracilis*, *Juncus balticus*

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

Stratum

GRAMINOID

Species

Carex nebrascensis

Globally

Stratum

GRAMINOID

Species

Carex nebrascensis, *Carex praegracilis*, *Juncus balticus*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

The stands are characterized by a dense cover of Baltic rush with cattail species and prairie cordgrass as minor components of the association.

Globally

This association is characterized by a low (<50 cm), dense graminoid layer dominated by the rhizomatous perennial *Juncus balticus*. Minor cover of *Carex* species, including *Carex aquatilis*, *Carex praegracilis*, *Carex nebrascensis* or *Carex utriculata*, is often present. Other common graminoids include *Deschampsia caespitosa*, *Distichlis spicata*, *Glyceria striata*, *Hordeum jubatum*, *Muhlenbergia asperifolia*, *Phleum alpinum*, and *Sporobolus airoides*. Forb cover is generally low but may include *Caltha leptosepala*, *Glaux maritima*, *Maianthemum stellatum*, and *Dodecatheon pulchellum*. Shrubs are not common, but occasional *Salix* spp. may occur. Some stands may be codominated by the introduced perennial sod grasses *Poa pratensis* or *Agrostis stolonifera*. Other introduced species, such as *Taraxacum officinale*, *Trifolium* spp., *Cirsium arvense*, *Lactuca serriola*, *Phleum pratense*, and *Thinopyrum intermedium*, may occur in disturbed stands.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G5.

DATABASE CODE CEGL001838

COMMENTS

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

(n/a)

Globally

(n./a)

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