

Typha spp. - Equisetum hyemale - Carex spp. Seep Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Cattail-Horsetail-Sedge spp. Seep Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	Great Plains Seep
TNC SYSTEM	Terrestrial
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland
FORMATION	Saturated temperate or subpolar grassland
ALLIANCE	<i>Carex</i> spp.- <i>Typha</i> spp. Saturated Herbaceous Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

RANGE

This community is found in Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas, and Missouri.

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The only naturally occurring site is Scotts Spring on the east side of Scotts Bluff. This site is on the lower-midslope of an escarpment. The other examples of this community found near the irrigation canal north of Scotts Bluff are anthropogenic.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

*Globally*

This community occurs on the slopes of hills, valleys, and bluffs. The soil in this community can be sand, muck, or gravel. It can be shallow to deep, depending on the degree of slope. The parent material is glacial till, loess, eolian sand, colluvium, or bedrock. Moderately minerotrophic groundwater (pH 6.0-6.9) continually saturates at least part of this community.

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This community is on a poorly developed, saturated, sandy loam soil.

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

*Globally*

<u>Strata</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Carex</i> spp., <i>Equisetum hyemale</i> , <i>Typha latifolia</i>

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program**  
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Strata            Species  
Herbaceous      *Carex hallii*, *Scirpus pungens*

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

*Globally*

*Carex* spp., *Equisetum hyemale*, *Typha latifolia*

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*Carex hallii*, *Scirpus pungens*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Throughout its range, the dominant vegetation in this community is hydrophytic macrophytes. These are typically 1-2 meters tall. *Typha latifolia* is by far the most common of the taller species. Among the shorter plants that rarely exceed 1 meter *Carex* spp. and *Equisetum hyemale* predominate. Other wetland species such as *Eupatorium perfoliatum*, *Scirpus* spp., and *Thylypertris palustris* occur often. Small trees, such as *Populus deltoides* and *Salix* spp., are present rarely.

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The only natural stand is a small area of less than 10 square meters. Other stands are a result of water seeping from the Mitchell and Gering irrigation canal, but have many of the same species. Dominant plants include *Carex hallii* and *Scirpus pungens*. *Juncus torreyi* and *Agropyron caninum* are prominent. Peripheral areas which were formerly unvegetated are weedy. *Cirsium arvense* is conspicuous in these areas. Near the irrigation canal, some sites have species typical of moderately alkaline sites.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

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*Carex hallii* and *Sisyrinchium montanum* are known only from this site.

CONSERVATION RANK    Information not available.

RANK JUSTIFICATION    Information not available.

COMMENTS

Across its range, most examples of this community are small, ranging from tens to a few hundred square meters. Fires spreading from the drier surrounding communities may have been common in this community prior to European settlement. Soil slumping may occur on steep slopes.

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The natural seep has been disturbed by construction of a blacktop hiking path through the center of it. A small drainage pool below the trail is dominated by *Salix exigua*. Artificial seeps are present in badland draws below irrigation canals. These contain species not found elsewhere on the Monument.

REFERENCES

The Nature Conservancy (TNC). 1991. Nebraska State Community Abstract , Spring Seep. Midwest Regional Office, Minneapolis, MN.