

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
ABERDEEN, IDAHO  
and  
UTAH AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY  
LOGAN, UTAH

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF ALKALI BULRUSH  
FOR LAND RESOURCE REGION D SOUTH  
SELECTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station announce the release of a Selected ecotype of Alkali Bulrush (*Scirpus maritimus*) for Land Resource Region (LRR) D South.

As a Selected release, this plant will not be given a name, but will be referred to as the Bear River selection of Alkali Bulrush to document its original collection location. The Bear River selection is released as a Selected Class of certified seed (natural track).

This alternative release procedure is justified because existing commercial sources of Alkali Bulrush are inadequate. Propagation material of specific ecotypes is needed for ecosystem restoration, enhancement, and construction of wetlands. The potential for immediate use is high, and commercial potential beyond specific wetland uses is probably limited. No commercial cultivars of Alkali Bulrush have been released at this time.

<b>Species:</b>	<i>Scirpus maritimus</i> L.
<b>New Name:</b>	<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i> (L.) Palla
<b>Synonymy:</b>	<i>Scirpus pacificus</i> Britt., <i>S. paludosus</i> A. Nels., <i>Schoenoplectus maritimus</i> (L.) Lye
<b>Common Name:</b>	Alkali Bulrush
<b>Plant Symbol:</b>	SCMA
<b>Accession Number:</b>	9067374

The scientific name for Alkali Bulrush has been changed from *Scirpus maritimus* to *Bolboschoenus maritimus*. Taxonomists have found that Alkali Bulrush is more appropriately fits into the genus *Bolboschoenus*. We have chosen to release it as *Scirpus maritimus* because of public recognition and familiarity.

**Source:** Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, west of Brigham City, Box Elder County, Utah.

**Collection area Information:** Stands are located within the Bear River MBR. Very little variability among SCMA stands was observed within the boundaries of the MBR. This variability was judged to be inconsequential. Therefore, any collection of SCMA located within the MBR boundary would be considered a constituent of this Selected Release. River Bulrush (*Scirpus fluviatilis*) has been found within the MBR. Caution should be exercised when collecting because the two species can be confused. Elevation is approximately 4200 feet, the soils are mostly poorly drained calcareous loams.

**Method of Selection:** From an Alkali Bulrush collection found in Land Resource Region (LRR) D South, which includes Major Land Resource Regions (MLRAs) 28a, 28b, and 29.

A total of 14 SCMA Populations from the Aberdeen PMC Service Area were evaluated from 1991 to 1995. All populations were evaluated for stability of land ownership, overall growth and spread, and vigor. The Bear River population was the best overall for the selected traits among the collections in D South. The Bear River selection of Alkali Bulrush was selected for the size of the native stand, stability of land ownership, shoot density per unit area, overall vigor, and height.

**Description:** *Scirpus maritimus* is a perennial, rhizomatous, obligate wetland plant. Stems are upright, triangular, and grow up to 1.5 meters tall. Leaves are several, 1 cm wide, well developed, elongate, flat, and distributed along the stem below the middle. The inflorescence consist blunt spikes of 3 to 20 or more, 1.2 to 2 cm long and 6 to 10 mm thick, all sessile in a compact terminal cluster.

**Anticipated Conservation Use:** The potential uses of the Bear River selection of *Scirpus maritimus* include erosion control, Constructed Wetland System applications, wildlife food/cover, wetland creations and restorations, and for increasing plant diversity in wetland and riparian communities. Its tendency to spread rhizomatously makes the Bear River selection an excellent plant for soil stabilization. The rhizomes also form a matrix for many beneficial bacteria making this plant an excellent choice for wastewater treatment. This species can tolerate long periods of inundation, up to 25 cm, and is typically found in high alkaline conditions.

**Potential Area of Adaptation:** *Scirpus maritimus* is an obligate wetland plant, commonly found in alkaline marshes throughout the Intermountain West. It inhabits poorly drained soils, and can tolerate long periods of inundation up to 25 cm of standing water. The Bear River selection would be an excellent choice for use in alkaline wetlands throughout the ecoregion defined as LRR D South.

**Seed Maintenance:** Breeders seed will NOT be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center. To make collections of the Bear River selection of Alkali Bulrush, contact the Refuge Manager, Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 866 S. Main St., Brigham City, UT 84302, (801) 723-5887. For official Selected tags to verify genetic identity of these plant materials, contact Utah Crop Improvement Association (801) 797-2082.

**Signature sheet for release of a selected class of:**

Bear River Selection of Alkali Bulrush (*Scirpus maritimus*) for Land Resource Region (LRR) D South from Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, west of Brigham City, Box Elder County, Utah.

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