

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ABERDEEN, IDAHO

and

IDAHO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
ABERDEEN, IDAHO

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF ALKALI BULRUSH
FOR LAND RESOURCE REGION B WEST
SELECTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM

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

As a Selected release, this plant will not be given a name, but will be referred to as the Fort Boise selection of Alkali Bulrush to document its original collection location. The Fort Boise 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.

Species:	<i>Scirpus maritimus</i> L.
New Name:	<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i> (L.) Palla
Synonymy:	<i>Scirpus pacificus</i> Britt., <i>S. paludosus</i> A. Nels., <i>Schoenoplectus maritimus</i> (L.) Lye
Common Name:	Alkali Bulrush
Plant Symbol:	SCMA, BOMA7
Accession Number:	9057579

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: Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area, west of the town of Apple Valley, Canyon County, Idaho.

Collection area Information: Stands are located within Fort Boise WMA. Very little variability among SCMA stands was observed within the boundaries of the WMA. This variability was judged to be inconsequential. Therefore, any collection of SCMA located within the WMA boundary would be considered a constituent of this Selected Release. Elevation is approximately 2200 feet. The soils are mostly poorly drained calcareous loams, and the precipitation ranges from 8 inches to 10 inches.

Method of Selection: From a Alkali Bulrush collection found in Land Resource Region (LRR) B West, which includes Major Land Resource Regions (MLRAs) western 2/3 of 11 and all of 10.

A total of 14 SCMA populations from the Aberdeen PMC Service Area were evaluated from 1991 to 1995. All populations were evaluated for vigor, overall growth and spread, potential seed production, and stability of land ownership. Given these criteria, the Fort Boise population performed better than all but a few stands in B West. The Fort Boise selection of Alkali Bulrush was selected for its rapid spreading from overall vigor, size of the native stand, height, and potential seed production. This accession needs special seed treatment and stratification procedures to achieve acceptable germination rates.

Description: *Scirpus maritimus* is a perennial, rhizomatous, wetland obligate. Stems are upright, triangular, and grow up to 1.5 meters tall. The leaves are several, 1 cm wide, well developed, elongate, flat, and distributed along the stem below the middle. The inflorescence consists of 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 Fort Boise 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 Fort Boise 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 of standing water, 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 commonly inhabits poorly drained soils and can tolerate long periods of inundation up to 25 cm of standing water. The Fort Boise selection would be an excellent choice for use in alkaline wetlands throughout the ecoregion defined as LRR B West.

Seed Maintenance: Breeders seed will NOT be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center. To make collections of the Fort Boise selection of Alkali Bulrush, contact Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area Manager, Idaho Fish and Game, Southwest Region, 3101 S. Powerline Road, Nampa, ID 83686, (208) 465-8465. For official Selected tags to verify genetic identity of these plant materials, contact Idaho Crop Improvement Association (208) 377-3420.

Signature sheet for release of a selected class of:

Fort Boise Selection of Alkali Bulrush (*Scirpus maritimus*) for Land Resource Region (LRR) B West from Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area, west of the town of Apple Valley, Canyon County, Idaho.

Luana E. Kiger
Idaho State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date

Dr. Richard C. Heimsch
Director
ID Agricultural Experiment Station
University of Idaho

Date

Gary R. Norstrom
Director
Biological Conservation Sciences Division
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date

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