

Bush Muhly

(Muhlenbergia porteri)

*Native Grasses
for
Conservation*

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Bush muhly (*Muhlenbergia porteri* Scribn. Ex Beal.) is a warm season native perennial bush grass. Plants reach heights of up to 3 feet (1 m) and are highly branched. This grass occurs in desert grasslands, desert shrub, within interior chaparral and it is an understory component of evergreen woodlands. Distribution occurs from the southern Great Basin and Intermountain region south to California, Texas and Mexico. Bush muhly originally existed in extensive stands. It can be very susceptible to winter grazing and likely has retreated to areas where it is protected from grazing by shrubs. When bush muhly has sufficient moisture it does not die back to the root crown in winter, and new growth starts from near the base of the previous year's stems.

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