

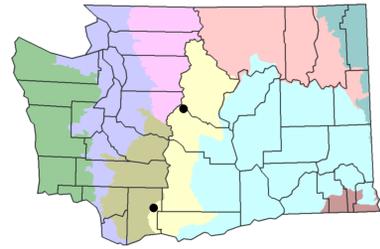
Juncus howellii F.J. Herm.

Howell's rush

Juncaceae - rush family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4 / S1



General Description: Rhizomatous perennial 2-6 dm tall with slightly compressed, erect stems that exceed the basal leaves. Leaf sheaths with membranous margins free above, forming erect, truncate to rounded auricles 1-3 mm long. Blades 2-4 mm broad, flattened, lacking cross-walls.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence terminal, 2-9 cm long, with (2) 3-9 heads. Heads with 3-8 (15) flowers, 7-17 mm broad when pressed. Single involucral bract rarely up to 15 mm long. Tepals lanceolate-acuminate, 5-6.5 mm long, almost equal, yellowish brown with a broad greenish midstripe, and usually minutely hairy toward the tip (use 20X magnification). Stamens 6; anthers 1.8-2.6 mm long, much longer than the filaments.

Fruits: Capsules tan, obovoid, rounded, 3-5 mm long, 1-2 mm shorter than the tepals. Seeds about 1 mm long, the body ellipsoid-ovoid, 0.5-0.7 mm long, covered with a strongly reticulate membrane forming conspicuous tails at each end; tails 0.2-0.4 mm. Identifiable July to August.

Identification Tips: *Juncus longistylis* has tepals with broad, thin, silvery to translucent margins, and 2-5 discrete or aggregated flower heads. *J. regelii* and *J. orthophyllus* form only small, linear, acute auricles, if any; in contrast the sheaths of *J. howellii* project upward into prominent truncate to rounded auricles at the juncture with the blades. *J. howellii* is not readily distinguishable from *J. regelii* or *J. orthophyllus* when immature.

Range: Northern CA, OR, WA, and central ID.

Habitat/Ecology: Moist meadows and riparian zones at various elevations in the mountains. WA habitats include a wet meadow and a wet, boulder-covered area at the base of a basalt cliff in a riparian zone. Associated species are glaucous willowherb (*Epilobium glaberrimum*), bedstraw (*Galium* spp.), clasping arnica (*Arnica amplexicaulis*), horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.), and violet (*Viola* spp.). Elevations in WA: 870-1070 m (2840-3500 ft).

Comments: Threats include siltation and alteration of the flood regime or water levels.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 22.



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
©1969 University of Washington
Press



© Steve Matson



© Steve Matson