

Meesia uliginosa Hedw.

Status: State Working List

Rank: G4S1

General Description: *Meesia uliginosa* forms 1 - 4 cm tall robust, dense green to yellowish green tufts of erect shoots. Leaves are 2- 4 mm long, linear-ligulate with an obtuse to rounded apex, often slightly contorted when dry. Margins are strongly recurved and entire; the costa is strong and broad at the base; median cells are short-rectangular. Sporophytes are common, with brown, elongate- pyriform urns occurring on a very long, yellowish brown seta.

Identification Tips: *Meesia triquetra* and *M. longiseta* can be distinguished from *M. uliginosa* by their strongly recurved, entire, obtuse to rounded leaves and the very wide costa at the base of the leaf.

Range: In the Pacific Northwest, *Meesia uliginosa* is known from British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and California. In Washington, it occurs in Clallam and Jefferson counties. In the northern portion of its range in British Columbia, it is most frequent at alpine and subalpine elevations.

Habitat: This species occurs on wet soil or peaty humus in wetlands and rock fissures of alpine and subalpine areas.

State Status Comments: There are only two records of this species in Washington. At the present time, these historic sites have not been relocated and no new sites have been reported. This species is also ranked S1 in Oregon.

Inventory Needs: The two historic sites should be revisited to establish their condition and to determine whether *Meesia uliginosa* is still present. Other bog sites and alpine and subalpine cliffs should be surveyed for additional populations.

Threats and Management Concerns: Changes to the hydrology and/or species composition of remaining wetlands and bogs could result in the loss of suitable habitat for *Meesia uliginosa*. Recreational impacts to alpine and subalpine humid cliffs could also threaten the continued existence of occurrences of this species.

References:

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Lawton, E., 1971. *Mosses of the Pacific Northwest*. The Hattori Botanical Laboratory. Nichinan, Miyazaki, Japan. 362 pp.

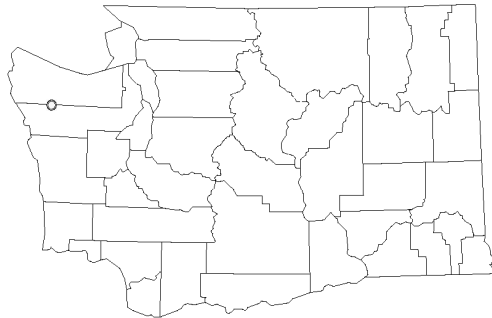
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Known distribution of *Meesia uliginosa* in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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