



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office  
Species Account  
WHITE SEDGE  
*Carex albida*



**CLASSIFICATION:** Endangered  
Federal Register Notice 62:54791; October 22, 1997  
[http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal\\_register/fr3169.pdf](http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr3169.pdf) (1.6 MB)

**STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:**  
This species was listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game in November 1979. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range).

**CRITICAL HABITAT:** None designated

**RECOVERY PLAN:** None

**5-YEAR REVIEW:** Completed August 2009. No change recommended.  
[http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/five\\_year\\_review/doc2555.pdf](http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/five_year_review/doc2555.pdf) (2 MB)



**DESCRIPTION:**  
White sedge (*Carex albida*) is a loosely-tufted, perennial herb in the sedge family (Cyperaceae). The triangular stems are 4 to 6 decimeters (1.3 to 2 feet) tall, and longer than the leaves. The leaves are flat, 3 to 5 millimeters (0.1-0.2 inch) wide, and have closed sheaths. The inflorescence consists of 4 to 7 oval to oblong spikelets that are about 7 to 18 millimeters (0.3 to 0.7 inch) long. The fruits are three-sided when mature. See Jepson Manual, below, for a more detailed description.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
The species is known from only one extant occurrence, at Pitkin Marsh in Sonoma County.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Santa Rosa (501B)?\* 3812246, Sebastopol (502A) 3812247, Camp Meeker (502B)\* 3812248 (\* Presumed extirpated)

**THREATS:**  
This species is threatened by potential alteration of hydrology from changes in land use or potential disturbance from a proposed wastewater treatment project, competition from nonnative plants, potential disturbance from repair or alteration of a nearby state highway, and random events.

**REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**[General references about California plants](http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm)**  
[www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant\\_spp\\_accts/plant\\_references.htm](http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm)

Howell, J. T. 1957. The identity of *Carex albida* Bailey. Leafl. W. Bot. 8:178-180.

[The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California](#). This is the standard reference about California plants. The Manual is available in an [online version](#). See also the [Jepson Online Interchange](#) for updates.

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