

***Puccinellia parishii* Hitchc.**
Parish's Alkali Grass

Family: Poaceae

Synonyms: None

NESL Status: G4

Federal Status: None

Plant Description: Annual grass; stems 1 to many, 5 – 28 cm tall; leaves 1- 6 cm long, 1 – 2 mm wide, leaf sheaths open to the base, ligules 1 – 3 mm long; inflorescence a narrow panicle, branches erect-appressed; spikelets 2 - 6 flowered, 4 – 6 mm long; florets disarticulating above the glumes, glumes much shorter than the lemmas; lemmas 1.5 – 2 mm long, pubescent on the mid and lateral nerves nearly to the apex, and on the intermediate nerves ca. half way. Short lived winter or spring annual. Flowering time is from late April to early June.

Similar Species: *P. parishii* is distinguished from other species of *Puccinellia* growing in similar habitats by its annual habit. *Poa annua* has wider leaves and the tips are boat shaped.

Habitat: Alkaline seeps, springs, and seasonally wet areas such as washes. Populations are known to occur between 5000 and 7200 ft elevation.

General Distribution: *P. parishii* is known from a series of widely disjunct populations ranging from San Bernadino Co, in southern California to northern and eastern Arizona, western New Mexico and southwestern Colorado.

Navajo Nation Distribution: Coconino Co, AZ, near Tuba City; in Navajo Co, AZ, near Shonto; Apache Co, AZ, near Tees Nos Pos, Monument Valley and south of Red Valley, and San Juan Co, NM, east of Beclabito and in the vicinity of Two Grey Hills.

Potential Navajo Nation Distribution: *P. parishii* may be found along any alkaline seep, spring or seasonally wet area.

Survey Period: Positive identification is only possible from mid April to early June. Suitable habitat can be identified year round.

Avoidance: A 200 ft buffer zone is recommended to avoid disturbance; may be more depending on slope, size and nature of the project.

References:

- Arizona Rare Plant Committee. 2001. Arizona rare plant field guide: a collaboration of agencies and organizations. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office. <http://aznps.org/rareplants.html>
- Hitchcock, A.S. and A. Chase. 1971. Manual of the grasses of the United States, Volume 1. Dover Publications, Inc. New York.
- Kelly, K. and J. McGinnis. 1994. Highly Safeguarded Protected Native Plants of Arizona. Arizona Department of Agriculture, Phoenix, AZ.
- New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council. 1999. New Mexico Rare Plants. Albuquerque, NM. New Mexico Rare Plants Homepage. <http://nmrareplants.unm.edu>
- Phillips, A.M., and B.G. Phillips. 1991. Status Report, *Puccinellia parishii* Hitchc. Submitted to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Ecological Services, Phoenix, AZ.



Puccinellia parishii

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Puccinellia parishii habitat

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