

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
ABERDEEN, IDAHO  
and  
NEVADA STATE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RENO, NEVADA

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF ALKALI BULRUSH  
FOR LAND RESOURCE REGION D NORTH  
SELECTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Nevada Division of Agriculture announce the release of a Selected ecotype of Alkali Bulrush (*Scirpus maritimus*) for Land Resource Region (LRR) D North.

As a Selected release, this plant will not be given a name, but will be referred to as the Stillwater selection of Alkali Bulrush to document its original collection location. The Stillwater selection is released as a Selected Class of certified seed (natural track).

This alternative release procedure is justified because existing commercial sources of Alkali Bulrush are inadequate. Propagation material of specific ecotypes is needed for ecosystem restoration, enhancement, and construction of wetlands. The potential for immediate use is high, and commercial potential beyond specific wetland uses is probably limited. No commercial cultivars of Alkali Bulrush have been released at this time.

<b>Species:</b>	<i>Scirpus maritimus</i> L.
<b>New Name:</b>	<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i> (L.) Palla
<b>Synonymy:</b>	<i>Scirpus pacificus</i> Britt., <i>S. paludosus</i> A. Nels., <i>Schoenoplectus maritimus</i> (L.) Lye
<b>Common Name:</b>	Alkali Bulrush
<b>Plant Symbol:</b>	SCMA, BOMA7
<b>Accession Number:</b>	9067428

The scientific name for Alkali Bulrush has been changed from *Scirpus maritimus* to *Bolboschoenus maritimus*. Taxonomists have found that Alkali Bulrush is more appropriately fits into the genus *Bolboschoenus*. We have chosen to release it as *Scirpus maritimus* because of public recognition and familiarity.

**Source:** Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, northwest of the town of Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada.

**Collection area Information:** Stands are located within Stillwater NWR. Very little variability among SCMA stands was observed within the boundaries of the NWR. This variability was judged to be inconsequential. Therefore, any collection of SCMA located within the NWR boundary would be considered a constituent of this Selected Release. Elevation is approximately 3900 feet, the soils are mostly poorly drained calcareous loams.

**Method of Selection:** From an Alkali Bulrush collection found in Land Resource Region (LRR) D North, which includes Major Land Resource Regions (MLRAs) 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27.

A total of 14 SCMA Populations from the Aberdeen PMC Service Area were evaluated from 1991 to 1995. All populations were evaluated for vigor, overall growth and spread, and stability

of land ownership. Given these criteria, the Stillwater population was in the best overall for the selection traits in the D North ecoregion. The Stillwater selection of Alkali Bulrush was selected for its **stability of land ownership**, potential seed production, vigor, height, tolerance to grazing, and shoot density per unit area.

**Description:** *Scirpus maritimus* is a perennial, rhizomatous, wetland obligate. Stems are upright, triangular, and grow up to 1.5 meters tall. Leaves are several, 1 cm wide, well developed, elongate, flat, and distributed along the stem below the middle. The inflorescence consist blunt spikes of 3 to 20 or more, 1.2 to 2 cm long and 6 to 10 mm thick, all sessile in a compact terminal cluster.

**Anticipated Conservation Use:** The potential uses of the Stillwater selection of *Scirpus maritimus* include erosion control, Constructed Wetland System applications, wildlife food/cover, wetland creations and restorations, and for increasing plant diversity in wetland and riparian communities. Its tendency to spread rhizomatously makes the Stillwater selection an excellent plant for soil stabilization. The rhizomes also form a matrix for many beneficial bacteria making this plant an excellent choice for wastewater treatment. This species can tolerate long periods of inundation, up to 25 cm, and is typically found in high alkaline conditions.

**Potential Area of Adaptation:** *Scirpus maritimus* is an obligate wetland plant, commonly found in alkaline marshes throughout the Intermountain West. It inhabits poorly drained soils, and can tolerate long periods of inundation up to 25 cm of standing water. The Stillwater selection would be an excellent choice for use in alkaline wetlands throughout the ecoregion defined as LRR D North.

**Seed Maintenance:** Breeders seed will NOT be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center. To make collections of the Stillwater selection of Alkali Bulrush, contact the Refuge Manager, Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1236, Fallon, NV 89406-1236, (702) 423-5128.

**Signature sheet for release of a selected class of:**

Stillwater Selection of Alkali Bulrush (*Scirpus maritimus*) for Land Resource Region (LRR) D North from Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, northwest of the town of Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada.

---

---

\_\_\_\_\_  
Luana E. Kiger  
Idaho State Conservationist  
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
William D. Goddard  
Nevada State Conservationist  
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date

Director  
Nevada State Division of Agriculture

Date

---

Gary R. Nordstrom  
Director  
Biological Conservation Sciences Division  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenues, SW. Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.