

Species: Few-seeded Sedge (*Carex oligosperma*)
Global Rank: G5
State Rank: S2
Climate Change Vulnerability Index: Extremely Vulnerable
Confidence: Very High

Habitat:

Few-seeded sedge is a boreal species found in North America from Labrador and Newfoundland west to the Yukon Territory (but not British Columbia) and extends into the United States to include the Great Lakes states, New England states, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and North Carolina (NatureServe 2011). In Pennsylvania, few-seeded sedge rarely occurs at higher elevations in open, sphagnum bogs (Rhoads and Klein 1993; Rhoads and Block 2007).

Current Threats:

Habitat loss and habitat degradation (e.g., hydrological alteration) are two major threats to this species.

Main Factors Contributing to Vulnerability Rank:

Distribution relative to natural barriers: Few-seeded sedge is found in isolated wetlands in Pennsylvania that are surrounded by extensive forests that would likely serve as barriers against movement to new locations.

Predicted micro sensitivity to changes in temperature: Few-seeded sedge occurs in high elevation sites towards the cooler end of the spectrum.

Predicted macro sensitivity to changes in precipitation, hydrology, or moisture regime: Within the species range in Pennsylvania, the species has experienced a slightly smaller than average precipitation variation in the past 50 years.

Predicted micro sensitivity to changes in precipitation, hydrology, or moisture regime: Few-seeded sedge is an obligate wetland plant that has moisture requirements that will likely change as a result of climate change effects.

References:

NatureServe. 2011. NatureServe Central Databases. Arlington, Virginia. USA.

Rhoads, A. and T. Block. 2007. The plants of Pennsylvania. 2nd Edition. Philadelphia. University of Pennsylvania Press.

Rhoads, A. and W.M. Klein. 1993. The vascular flora of Pennsylvania annotated checklist and atlas. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA.

