2013 *Festuca hallii* (Vasey) Piper Directed Surveys on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests (ARP) in Colorado

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**Festuca hallii** Overview

- G4, S1 in CO and S2 in WY.
- Common in Canada, rare in WY, CO, NM.
- Range-wide declines due to human land use practices, including livestock grazing, agricultural conversion, and fire suppression.
- Sometimes confused with *Festuca campestris*.
- Forest Service Region 2 sensitive species. Directed surveys commissioned by ARP in 2013.
**Festuca hallii** in Colorado

Five Historic Occurrences:


4. Northern South Park, the type locality probably on Pike National Forest or private, vague locality.

5. Custer County, in H.D. Harrington’s notes, vague locality.
2013 *Festuca hallii* Surveys
Funded by ARP

- Two of Colorado’s historic sites on the ARP rediscovered. Both sites are located in Larimer County:
  1. Cameron Peak not seen since 1956.
  2. Shipman Park not seen since 1954.
Two Rediscovered Occurrences on the Roosevelt National Forest
Cameron Peak and Shipman Park
Cameron Peak: 19 subpopulations, 2,140 ramets.
Festuca hallii plants and habitat on Cameron Peak
Rodent disturbance in *Festuca hallii* habitat on Cameron Peak
Festuca hallii plants and occupied habitat polygons on Cameron Peak
Only the Uppermost Subpopulations Associated with *Kobresia*
Shipman Park: 2 subpopulations, 316 ramets.
*Festuca hallii* plants and habitat in Shipman Park
Circled area is a large *F. hallii* hummock
Festuca hallii inhabiting a large hummock
Spanish Peaks Occurrence
Rodent Disturbance
Characters of *Festuca hallii*
Field Identification of *Festuca hallii*

- Usually large and robust for a fescue
- All known Colorado populations with a contracted panicle
- Leaves one-half or over one-half the height of the stem
- Leaves quite narrow and involute
- Densely caespitose with a short and brittle rhizome
- Spikelets are relatively large for a fescue
- Lemma is unawned and acute, or short-awned
- Glumes are nearly equal to exceeding the lemma, an unusual character in *Festuca*
- Stem often purplish at base