POACEAE (GRAMINEAE) Agrostideae
Calamagrostis rubescens Buckl.
Caru

pinegrass

FORM: A common, perennial grass 5-10dm (2-3ft) tall, from creeping rhizomes; culms slender and hollow, usually with reddish bases.

LEAVES: Mostly basal, narrow, flat, generally lax blades 2-4mm broad, dull green on upper surface and shiny green on lower surface, collar with conspicuous tufts of hair (1); sheaths open; auricles lacking; ciliolate ligules, 1-5mm long, with ragged margins (2).

INFLORESCENCE: Narrow, spikelike panicle, pale greenish-white to purple, 8-15cm (3-6in) long; one floret per spikelet and many spikelets per branch; awn bent and twisted, attached near base of lemma, which is hidden by long callus hairs (3); seldom flowers, except in full sunlight; late June-Aug.

ENEMIES: Fire: moderately resistant, regeneration from rhizomes to preburn levels within 1-2 years.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Carex geyeri, p.204.

NOTES: Widespread grass in northern Rocky Mountains. Palatability is improved by burning.