



**Ute Ladies' Tresses Orchid
(Spiranthes diluvialis)**



Photo Source: Teresa Prendusi, U.S. Forest Service



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Ute Ladies' Tresses Orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*)

Federal status: Threatened
Colorado status: Not listed

This plant is a perennial, terrestrial orchid with stems 8 to 20 inches tall, arising from thickened roots. Its narrow leaves can reach 11 inches long. The flowering stalk consists of few to many small white or ivory flowers clustered into a spike arrangement at the top of the stem. It blooms, generally, from late July through August.

Habitat: This species grows along riparian edges, gravel bars, old oxbows, high flow channels, and moist to wet meadows along perennial streams. It typically occurs in stable wetland and seepy areas associated with old landscape features within historical floodplains of major rivers, lakes or springs. Suitable habitat for this orchid is found in 15 Colorado counties, including the heavily populated Front Range of the Rocky Mountains.



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