

Lupinus oreganus Heller

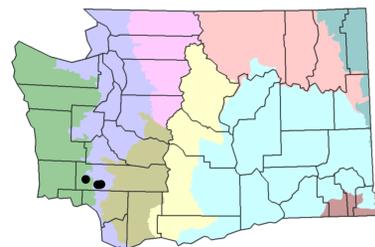
synonym: *Lupinus sulphureus* Douglas ex Hook. var. *kincaidii* (C.P. Sm.) C.L. Hitchc.

Kincaid's sulfur lupine

Fabaceae - pea family

status: State Endangered, Federal Listed Threatened

rank: G5 / S1



General Description: Rhizomatous perennial; stems usually numerous, mostly unbranched, 30-50 cm tall, with short to long, whitish to brownish, appressed silky hairs. Leaves palmately compound; basal leaves usually present, persistent until after flowering, the lowermost petioles (2) 3-5 times as long as the blades. Upper stem leaves with petioles sometimes shorter than the blades. Leaflets (7) 9-11 (12), hairless above, narrowly oblanceolate, usually with an acute tip, (2) 2.5-4 (5) cm long.

Floral Characteristics: Racemes mostly 10-18 cm long. Flowers numerous but not closely crowded, scattered to imperfectly whorled, 9-12 mm long; color variable, from light bluish or purple to yellowish or cream, quickly fading to a distinctive orangish brown. Pedicels (2) 4-10 mm long. Calyx silky, often asymmetrical but not truly saccate or spurred, the upper lip 2-toothed, the lower entire. Banner not much reflexed from the wings and keel, index only 2-10, hairless or very sparsely hairy on the back. Wings hairless; keel usually ciliate most of the length but sometimes hairless. Flowers April to June.

Fruits: Pods hairless, 2-3 cm long; seeds 4-5, pinkish brown to black.

Identification Tips: Distinguished by its low-growing habit, unbranched inflorescence, hairless to sparsely hairy banner, and small banner index.

Range: Regional endemic from Douglas Co., OR, north to Lewis Co., WA, west of the Cascades. Historically in southern B.C.

Habitat/Ecology: Native upland prairies and open oak woodlands, historically maintained by periodic fire. Elevations in WA: 70-90 m (240-300 ft). Soils are mesic to slightly xeric. *Lupinus oreganus* is the primary host plant of the federally endangered Fender's blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides fenderi*). Adult butterflies lay their eggs on the lupine in May to June; caterpillars feed and develop on the host until the following spring.

Comments: Threatened by habitat loss from agriculture, urban development, road maintenance, and herbicides. This species has been extirpated from B.C. and is also rare in OR.

References: Liston et al. 1995; Wilson et al. 2003.



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