

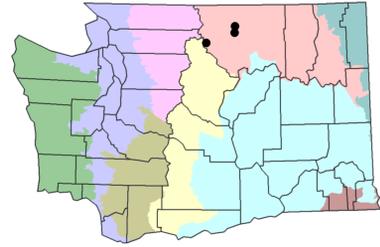
Parnassia kotzebuei Cham. & Schlfadl. ex Spreng.

Kotzebue's grass-of-parnassus

Saxifragaceae - saxifrage family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S1



General Description: Hairless perennial 6-20 cm tall, from very short, erect rootstocks. Leaves all basal. Petioles as long as or longer than the blades; blades ovate, triangular or elliptic, 5-15 (20) mm long.

Floral Characteristics: Flowering stems usually solitary (2-3), leafless, usually bractless or with a near-basal, ovate to lanceolate bract up to 15 mm long. Calyx adnate to the ovary for 1-4 mm, 5-lobed, the segments narrowly oblong-lanceolate, 3-4 mm long, usually 3-nerved. Petals 5, white, 1 or 3 veined, about as long as the calyx lobes. Fertile stamens 5, inserted on the calyx alternate with the petals; filaments slender, mostly equal to the calyx lobes in length, and considerably longer than the sterile stamens. Anthers less than 1 mm long. Sterile stamens on WA plants are short, linear scales, sometimes with 1-3 irregular teeth at the tip, opposite the petals. Flowers June to September.

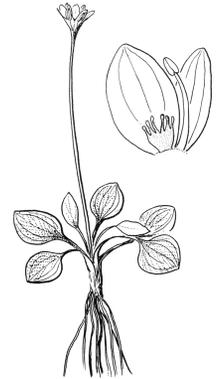


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Fruits: Capsules up to 1 cm long.

Identification Tips: *Parnassia parviflora* and *P. palustris* are similar, but distinguished by their flowering stems, which usually have a bract above the level of the basal leaves. Their petals are also usually considerably longer than the calyx lobes and have 5-13 veins; sterile stamens have 5 to many segments at the tip; and anthers are at least 1 mm long.

Range: Greenland, west throughout most of Canada, to the arctic tundra of AK; southward in the Rocky Mts. to B.C. and in a few localities in WA, ID, MT, WY, CO, and NV. Also in Asia.

Habitat/Ecology: Moist subalpine meadows, thickets, and creeks in boggy soil. In WA it grows on damp mossy ledges at the base of granitic cliffs, and adjacent to a lake, in moist seepage at the base of a talus slope. Elevations in WA: 1460-2030 m (4800-6700 ft). Associated species include mosses, Elmer's ragwort (*Senecio elmeri*), yellow columbine (*Aquilegia flavescens*), fringed grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia fimbriata*), and heartleaf arnica (*Arnica cordifolia*).

Comments: This species is also rare in MT, ID, WY, CO, Alberta, Sask., Ontario, Labrador, and Newfoundland.

References: Klinkenberg 2008.



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