

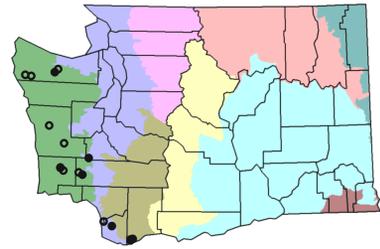
***Polemonium carneum* A. Gray**

great polemonium

Polemoniaceae - phlox family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4 / S1S2



General Description: Perennial from a woody rhizome or caudex; stems decumbent to erect, loosely clustered, 5-10 dm tall, minutely hairy. Stem leaves alternate, pinnately compound, becoming smaller upward; leaflets 7-21 per leaf, lanceolate to ovate, pointed at the tip, thin, 1.5-4.5 cm x 6-23 mm, the 3 terminal ones sometimes partly fused. Basal leaves with long petioles, becoming shorter upward.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence hairy and sticky, open terminal, generally leafy; flowers 3-7, with pedicels 2-12 mm long. Calyx 8-20 mm long when flowering. Corolla bell-shaped, 10-25 mm long, usually longer than the calyx, with 5 lobes greater than the tube. Flower color varies from white to yellow, salmon, purple or fleshy pink. Style much greater than the stamens. Blooms May to August.

Fruits: Capsules 6-8 mm; seeds 1-10 per compartment.

Identification Tips: This is a distinctive species, recognized by its large bell-shaped flowers, long pedicels, flower color, and height. *Polemonium occidentale* is also tall, but has smaller, sky blue flowers, with corollas 10-15 mm long, and fruits 3-4 mm long.

Range: WA, south to San Francisco Bay, CA.

Habitat/Ecology: Woody thickets, moist open forests, meadows, prairie edges, roadsides, and along fence rows. Sites are sunny to somewhat shaded, with damp humuslike soil. From near sea level to moderate elevations in the mountains; elevations in WA are 50 to 600 m (150-2000 ft). Associated species include Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), red alder (*Alnus rubra*), big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), grasses, sedges (*Carex* spp.), wild cucumber (*Marah oreganus*), blackberry (*Rubus* spp.), rose (*Rosa* spp.), swordfern (*Polystichum munitum*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), toughleaf iris (*Iris tenax*), western columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), pale bellflower (*Campanula scouleri*), and serrulate beardtongue (*Penstemon serrulatus*).

Comments: Threats include livestock grazing, roadside maintenance and weed control, timber harvest, succession in some communities, and fence removal or installation. More information is needed about the WA populations.

References: Hickman 1993; Rickett 1971.



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