

## ***Pyrrocoma liatriformis* Greene**

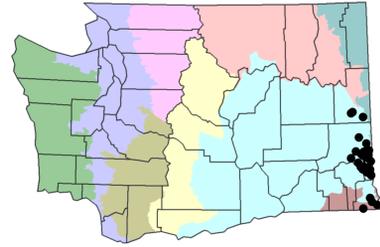
synonym: *Haplopappus liatriformis* (Greene) H. St. John

small-head goldenweed

Asteraceae - aster family

status: State Threatened, Federal Species of Concern,  
BLM strategic, USFS strategic

rank: G2 / S2



**General Description:** Herbaceous perennial from a stout taproot, with 1 to several stems, 3-7 dm tall. Herbage and involucre hairy, becoming less so with age; hairs variable in texture, from long and soft to stiff and rough. Leaves hairy, margins smooth to wavy or sometimes with a few sharp teeth. Basal leaves tufted, oblanceolate to narrowly elliptic, 7-31 cm long (including petiole), 1-3 cm wide. Stem leaves become smaller and sessile upward.

**Floral Characteristics:** Several radiate flower heads form an elongate, racemelike inflorescence. Heads bell-shaped, disk up to 2 cm wide, involucre 10-23 mm high. Involucral bracts firm, pointed, herbaceous, unequal in length, often overlapping, 5-12 mm. Rays 13-25, yellow, 6-10 mm long. Disk corollas 7-10 mm long. Flowers July to August; identifiable through mid-September.

**Fruits:** Elongate achenes; pappus of numerous, unequal capillary bristles. Identification tips May co-occur with *P. carthamoides*, which is shorter, has larger flower heads with less conspicuous or absent ray flowers, reddish stems, and larger basal leaves.

**Range:** Endemic to southeast WA and adjacent ID.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Palouse grassland and transition zones between prairie and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), including meadows dominated by bunchgrasses with patches of deciduous shrubs. Usually on north-facing slopes with deep, productive silt loams. Elevations in WA: 580-1250 m (1900-4100 ft), but generally below 1100 m (3600 ft). Associated species include rose (*Rosa* spp.), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), and balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*).

**Comments:** Most of the species' habitat has been lost through agricultural conversion. Other threats include grazing, herbicides, and competition from invasive weedy species. Recent research by Smith and Perkins and by Björk and Darrach have identified consistent differences between *P. liatriformis*, in the Palouse prairies, and plants attributable to *P. scaberula*, in the Snake River canyon grasslands.

**References:** Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 20; Smith & Perkins n.d.; Björk & Darrach 2009.



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