

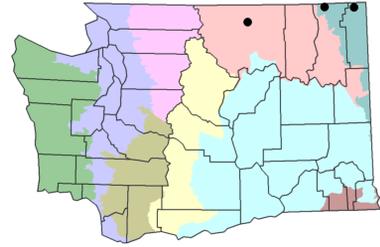
Salix maccalliana Rowlee

Maccall's willow

Salicaceae - willow family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5? / S1



General Description: Adapted from Brayshaw (1976) and Douglas *et al.* (1998-2002): Upright shrub 1-5 m tall with reddish brown branches; twigs yellow brown to reddish brown and hairy when young, becoming hairless. Leaves alternate, upper surface bright green and shiny with a stout yellowish midrib, elliptic-lanceolate to oblong, up to 8 x 2.5 cm but usually smaller, often finely scalloped or toothed along the margins (sometimes entire); hairless, firm and leathery when mature. Under surface paler green, hairless, and not usually white-waxy. Stipules minute or absent. Winter buds covered with a single, nonresinous, caplike scale.

Floral Characteristics: Male and female catkins borne on separate plants. Bracts of both male and female catkins tawny yellow to pale brownish, 3-5 mm long, smooth to hairy. Male flowers with 2 stamens; filaments hairy below. Catkins develop with the leaves in May.

Fruits: Capsules 9-12 mm long, covered with dense curly white hairs, on a stipe up to 2 mm long.

Identification Tips: This taxon is not in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973). *Salix maccalliana* is similar to *S. pseudomyrsinites*, *S. boothii*, and *S. myrtillifolia*. However, the ovaries and capsules of *S. maccalliana* are hairy and its leaves are leathery. The ovaries of *S. pseudomyrsinites*, *S. boothii*, and *S. myrtillifolia* are smooth and their leaves are thin.

Range: Widely scattered through Canada, from the Pacific Northwest Coast eastward to Quebec, south to ND, MN, and northeastern WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Bogs, fens, swamps, wetlands, and marshes in open, low-lying sites; often in peaty soils, sometimes restricted to hummocks. One WA site was a cedar swamp that has been converted to open fen by fire. Associated species include thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*), water birch (*Betula occidentalis*), resin birch (*Betula glandulosa*), broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*), sedges (*Carex* spp.), and horsetails (*Equisetum* spp.). Elevations in WA: 460-900 m (1500-3000 ft).

Comments: Threats include hydrologic changes from beaver activity and forest fires. This species is also rare in the Yukon, ND, MN, Ontario, and Quebec.

References: Brayshaw 1976; Douglas et al. 1998-2002, vol. 5.



photo by Barb Benner



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