

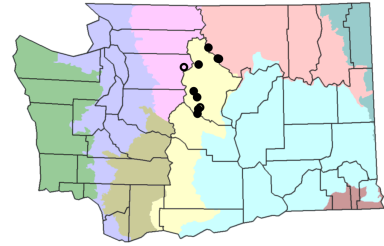
Erigeron salishii G.W. Douglas & Packer

Salish fleabane

Asteraceae - aster family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G3 / S2



General Description: Adapted from Douglas & Packer (1988): Perennial in dense, compact tufts with multiple stems, 1.5-7 cm in height. Stems sparsely to densely hairy with long, spreading, white, septate hairs, usually with short, glandular hairs as well, and densely woolly below the flowering head. Stems leafless except for a single scalelike bract. Leaves all basal, persistent, blades 0.3-1.6 cm long, with coarse stiff hairs above and below, somewhat glandular, mostly 3-cleft, the base linear, 0.5-1 mm wide, lobes oblong, ovate or obovate.

Floral Characteristics: Flowering heads radiate, solitary, involucre 5-7 x 8-11 mm. Involucral bracts 15-25, purplish or purple-tipped, narrowly lanceolate, densely hairy with long, white, septate hairs, often with purplish cross-walls; also often glandular-hairy. Ray flowers 15-30, white, blue, or purplish blue, 6-10 mm long.

Fruits: Achenes sparsely to densely hairy; pappus of 15-20 capillary bristles. Identifiable in July.

Identification Tips: Not included in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973). Collections have been previously identified as *Erigeron compositus*, *E. trifidus*, or *E. lanatus*. *Erigeron salishii* is differentiated by its 3-forked leaves with lobes of similar shape and size. *E. compositus* var. *discoideus* has 3-forked leaves with linear to lanceolate or narrowly oblong lobes that are often of dissimilar size and shape on the same plant. The previous year's leaves are much more persistent and conspicuous on *E. salishii*. *E. lanatus* does not occur in WA; its leaves are weakly 3-toothed or lobed. *E. basalticus* has irregularly 3-lobed leaves, but it does not occur within the range of *E. salishii*.

Range: Central Vancouver Island, B.C., and the northern Cascade Mts. in WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Alpine zone on dry, rocky, or scree slopes and ridgetops with granite, rock, talus, sand, and loess soils; at elevations of 2000 to 2800 m (6600-9000 ft). Often scattered in small protected pockets or benches in areas with unstable soils.

Comments: This taxon is also rare in B.C.

References: Douglas & Packer 1988; Douglas et al. 1998-2002, vol. 1; Douglas 1995; Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 20.



photo by Joe Arnett

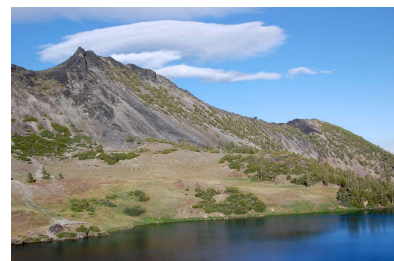


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