

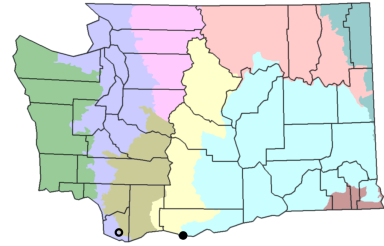
***Lasthenia glaberrima* DC.**

smooth goldfields

Asteraceae - aster family

status: State Endangered, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S1



General Description: Hairless or nearly hairless annual herb with lax stems, commonly rooting from lower nodes, 5-35 cm tall. Leaves opposite, linear, entire, 2-8 cm long; some pairs fused at the base and sheathing the stem.

Floral Characteristics: Flowering heads radiate, few, often on long peduncles. Involucre 5-7 mm high; bracts united into a bell-shaped cup with short, ciliate teeth. Rays yellow, very short and inconspicuous, not projected beyond the involucre. Flowers June to July.

Fruits: Elongate achenes; pappus of 5-10 firm, jagged, and sometimes shortly awn-tipped scales.

Identification Tips: *Lasthenia maritima** is related, but confined to coastal areas. *L. glaberrima* has connate involucre bracts, while the bracts of *L. maritima* are distinct nearly or completely to the base.

Range: Mostly west of the Cascades, from southern WA to central CA. One population has been identified in B.C.

Habitat/Ecology: Margins of vernal pools, wet or muddy stream banks, wetlands, and winter-flooded meadows. The extant WA population grows around vernal ponds on basalt tablelands; the area is wet in winter and dries by late spring. Associated species include rabbitfoot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*), Nuttall's quillwort (*Isoetes nuttallii*), calicoflower (*Downingia yina*), fringed waterplantain (*Damasonium californicum*), willow (*Salix exigua*), smooth spike-primrose (*Epilobium pygmaeum*), pale spike-rush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*), and inch-high rush (*Juncus uncialis*).

Comments: There is 1 historical occurrence and 1 recent occurrence in WA. The extant population is currently threatened by competition from nonnative plants.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 21.



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