

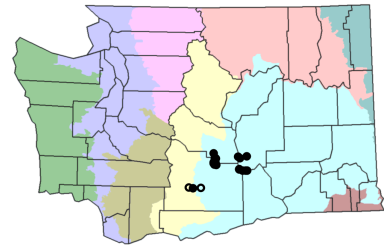
## ***Lomatium tuberosum*** Hoover

Hoover's desert-parsley

Apiaceae - carrot family

status: State Sensitive, Federal Species of Concern, BLM sensitive

rank: G2G3 / S2S3



**General Description:** Adapted from Mastroggiuseppe *et al.* (1985): Low-growing, herbaceous perennial from a tuberlike, thickened root. Leaves mostly basal, usually only the finely dissected, grayish green, hairless, whitish waxy blades visible above the surface. Blade bi- or triternate, broader than long, 4-8 x 5-11 cm at maturity; ultimate segments narrowly linear, 3-16 x 0.8 mm, with cuspidate tips. Petioles 12-15 cm long, mostly below ground. Purplish bladeless sheaths at the base of the plant are 3.5-4.5 x 1 cm.

**Floral Characteristics:** Flowers typically light purple (sometimes yellow), in compound umbels atop a leafless peduncle, 15-20 cm long. Anthers yellow. Rays of umbel up to 8 cm long at maturity. Involucels of inconspicuous, linear to linear-lanceolate purplish bractlets, sometimes absent. Flowers early March to mid-April.

**Fruits:** Elliptic schizocarp, 8-13 x 4-6 mm; lateral wings thickened, up to 1.2 mm wide. Fruits mature in May; leaves wither as fruits mature.

**Identification Tips:** *L. columbianum*, in similar habitats, has bladeless basal sheaths (8-16 x 4 cm), conspicuous old leaf blades, usually purple anthers, and larger fruits (12-29 mm long). Taxonomic keys and drawings in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973) contain errors in describing *L. tuberosum*, *L. minus*, and *L. columbianum*, potentially causing misidentification of *L. columbianum* as *L. tuberosum*.

**Range:** Endemic to the Columbia Basin of WA.

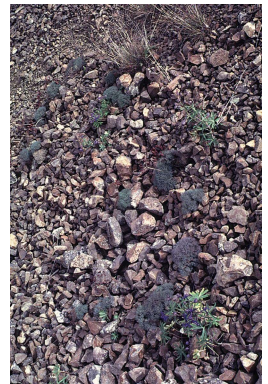
**Habitat/Ecology:** Loose basalt talus in sagebrush steppe, typically on east- to north-facing slopes. Sometimes in channels of open ridgetops and talus on south- to southwest-facing slopes in the western portion of its distribution. Elevations: 140-1220 m (460-4000 ft). Associated species include stiff sagebrush (*Artemisia rigida*), larkspur (*Delphinium nuttallianum*), Sandberg's bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), and bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*).

**Comments:** Threats include gravel extraction, road construction, military training activities, livestock grazing, and herbicide drift.

**References:** Gill & Mastroggiuseppe 1983; Mastroggiuseppe *et al.* 1985.



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