

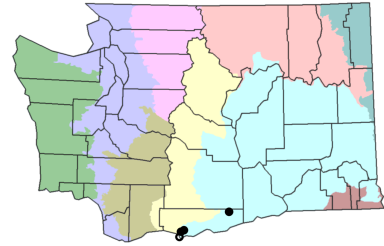
***Penstemon deustus* Douglas ex Lindl. var. *variabilis* (Suksd.) Cronquist**

hot-rock penstemon

Scrophulariaceae - figwort family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5T1T2 / S1S2



General Description: Perennial 2-6 dm tall, generally woody toward the much-branched base, the stems of the season mostly simple and erect. Leaves oblanceolate to obovate or elliptic, opposite or frequently in 3s or 4s, or scattered; all narrow and irregularly few-toothed to entire, often almost petiolate, greater than 5 times as long as wide, not more than 6 mm wide.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence whorled, of loosely arranged axillary flowers. Calyx 2.5-6 mm long, 5-cleft to the base, segments lanceolate to narrowly ovate. Corolla commonly dull white with some purplish lines within (sometimes yellowish or washed with lavender), 8-20 mm long. Fertile stamens 4, paired; anthers with pollen sacs attached only near the tip, spreading widely, the sacs hairless, less than 1 mm long. Sterile filament well developed, usually bearded with tufts of long hairs. Blooms June to July.

Fruits: Capsules 3-5 mm long; seeds about 1 mm long.

Identification Tips: *Penstemon deustus* var. *deustus* occurs within the same range; however, it has opposite leaves that are clearly toothed. In contrast, the leaves of var. *variabilis* are narrower and often whorled or scattered with few to no teeth on the margins. *P. confertus* flowers are more yellowish than white and generally smaller than those of *P. deustus* var. *variabilis*.

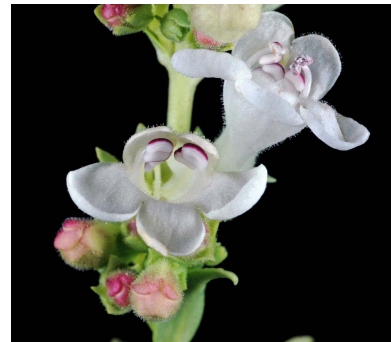
Range: Klickitat Co., WA, to Deschutes, Grant, and Umatilla cos., OR.

Habitat/Ecology: Dry foothills and lowlands, on open, dry, thin soils over basalt. Elevations in WA: 500-1000 m (1800-3200 ft). Associated species include bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), arrowleaf buckwheat (*Eriogonum compositum*), woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), milk-vetch (*Astragalus* spp.), common tarweed (*Madia gracilis*), large-flowered collomia (*Collomia grandiflora*), and Hall's goldenweed (*Columbiadorea hallii*). Sites in WA lack a distinctive shrub component.

Comments: This regional endemic is at the northern edge of its range in southern WA. Historical heavy livestock grazing has led to an increase in weedy annuals. Threats include conversion of habitat, grazing pressure, competition from weeds, herbicide applications, and road maintenance.



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