

***Salix glauca* L. var. *villosa* Andersson**

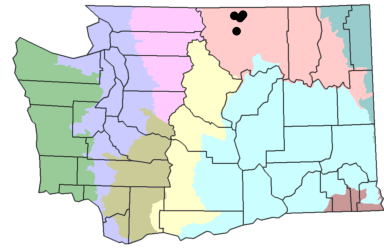
synonym: *Salix villosa* D. Don ex Hook.

glaucous willow

Salicaceae - willow family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5T5? / S1S2



General Description: Branching, erect shrub (1) 3-15 dm tall, sometimes taller. New twigs with soft woolly hairs covering a dark or reddish color. Stipules small (often less than 1 mm long), deciduous. Petioles yellowish, (2) 4-10 mm long. Leaf blades with a bluish white waxy coating below, loosely hairy on both sides when young, simple, elliptic, commonly 2.5-4.5 x 1-2 cm (up to 6 x 3 cm), with entire margins. Winter buds covered with a single, nonresinous, caplike scale.

Floral Characteristics: Male and female catkins borne on separate plants. Catkin scales light to dark brown, sometimes blackish, hairy on both sides. Male catkins cylindric, 12-30 mm long; stamens 2, anthers generally greater than 0.5 mm. Female catkins 2-5 cm long at maturity; styles 0.5-0.8 mm, longer than the stigmas. Identifiable July to August. Leaves and catkins develop at the same time, and the flowers may persist until early September.

Fruits: Hairy capsules 4-8 mm long, borne on pedicels (0.5) 1-2 mm long.

Identification Tips: Distinguished by its leaves, which are strongly whitish waxy below; the long yellowish petioles; and short-hairy seed capsules borne on pedicels up to 2 mm long.

Range: Circumboreal, extending southward in the Rocky Mts. to NM.

Habitat/Ecology: Moist places, riparian areas, shrub wetlands, and gravelly open slopes at moderate to high elevations in the mountains, often above timberline. Elevations in WA: 1340-1800 m (4400-5900 ft). Associates include Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), hoary willow (*Salix candida*), Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*), prickly currant (*Ribes lacustre*), and sedges (*Carex* spp.). At one site, the species grows some distance from the water's edge, separate from other willows.

Comments: In WA this species occurs only in Okanogan Co., which supports many circumboreal species otherwise not known from the state. Most of the WA populations are quite small. Additional inventory is needed. Threats include hydrologic alteration from beaver activity and other sources, timber harvest, road construction, recreation, and livestock grazing.



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