Calochortus longebarbatus S. Watson var. longebarbatus

long-bearded sego lily Liliaceae - lily family

status: State Sensitive, Federal Species of Concern, BLM

sensitive, USFS sensitive rank: G4T4 / S2S3

General Description: Perennial 1-3 dm tall with 1-4 flowers. Basal leaf flat, 2-3 dm x 5-10 mm. Stem leaf low, nearly basal, often with a bulblet in the axil.

Floral Characteristics: Bracts 2, opposite, of unequal lengths, 2-6 cm. Sepals 3, narrow, ovate to lanceolate, green, shorter than the petals, 15-20 mm. Petals 3, erect, lavender pink with a deep purplish red band above a gland near the base, drying purple, with scattered long, curling hairs on the inner face above the gland. Gland transversely oblong. Stamens 6; anthers about half as long as the filaments. O vary 3-winged. Flowers June to July; in dry years populations may not flower.

Fruits: O val to nearly orbicular, 3-winged, erect, 2-3 cm.

Identification Tips: Distinguished from other *Calochortus* in WA by petal color and the long hairs near the purplish red band on the inner petals. *C. nitidus* has a leaf located about halfway up the stem; it rarely has bulblets.

Range: Regional endemic currently, from Yakima and Klickitat cos., south to Wasco Co., OR, and from Klamath Co., OR, south to CA. In between these areas, the typical variety is replaced by *C. longebarbatus* var. *peckii*, known only from Crook and Wheeler cos., OR.

Habitat/Ecology: Open areas in vernally moist meadows, forest-meadow edges, and semiopen areas within coniferous woods. Sites are flat to gently sloped and dominated by grasses and forbs. Associated species include ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), spirea (*Spiraea douglasii*), onion (*Allium spp.*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), barestem biscuitroot (*Lomatium nudicaule*), and oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*). Elevations in WA: 550-915 m (1800-3000 ft). Sometimes found in disturbed sites, such as roadsides and timber harvest units. It is sensitive to spring and early summer fires but tolerates low-intensity fall burning.

Comments: Prolonged livestock grazing reduces population size. Other threats include hydrologic alteration and encroachment of trees, shrubs, and sod-forming exotic grasses. This taxon is rare throughout its range.

References: Croft et al. 1997; Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 26; Ownbey 1940.





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