

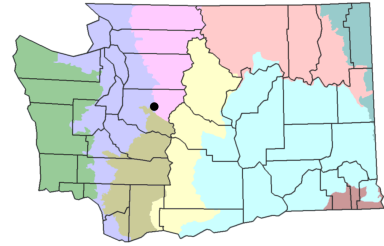
Cassiope lycopodioides (Pall.) D. Don

clubmoss cassiope

Ericaceae - heath family

status: State Threatened, BLM strategic, USFS strategic

rank: G4 / S1



General Description: Adapted from Douglas *et al.* (1998-2002): Dwarf shrub, 5-18 cm tall, with long, thin, usually hairy branches, about 2 mm wide, trailing or prostrate, not rooting at the nodes. Leaves opposite, appressed, 1.5-3 mm long, overlapping, oblanceolate, sessile, concave above, rounded beneath, not in 4 distinct rows, with thin papery edges, patches of small hairs, and the upper side covered with short, stiff hairs. There are curly, white to rust-colored hairs on young leaves at the stem tips.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers lateral or subterminal, nodding on stalks up to 10 mm long. Petals white, fused, giving the flower a bell shape; calyx red, 2-2.5 mm long, papery-margined. Anthers awned, opening by a false terminal pore.

Fruits: A nearly spherical, many-seeded, dry capsule. The WA occurrence was identified during September.

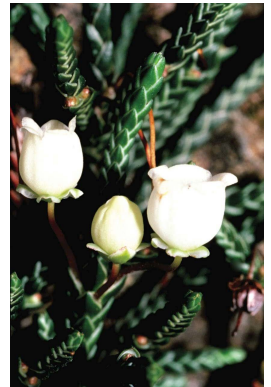
Identification Tips: This species is not in Hitchcock & Conquist (1973). Distinguishing characteristics include the membranous margins and the hairs on both sides of the leaves. *Harrimanella stelleriana** leaves are alternate, spreading, and have short petioles; flowers are solitary and terminal. The leaves of *C. mertensiana* do not have membranous margins, are arranged in 4 distinct rows, and the branches are thicker (about 4 mm in diameter). *C. tetragona* is darker green and has a sharp crease or groove on the lower surface (back) of the leaves, which are arranged in 4 distinct rows.

Range: More frequent in circumboreal regions. Russia, southern islands of AK, south through B.C. The WA occurrence is disjunct.

Habitat/Ecology: Rock faces or balds, usually at high elevations, often near waterfalls, streams, or generally moist areas. The single WA occurrence is in a cold air drainage of a steep, rocky ravine at 580-670 m (1900-2200 ft). Associated species include yellow mountain heath (*Phyllodoce glanduliflora*), partridgefoot (*Luetkea pectinata*), rusty menziesia (*Menziesia ferruginea*), and juniper (*Juniperus communis*).

Comments: Threats include recreational climbing and competition with other vegetation.

References: Hulten 1968; Douglas *et al.* 1998-2002, vol. 3.



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