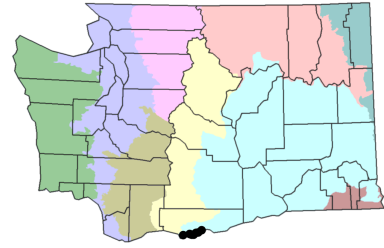


***Lomatium laevigatum* (Nutt.) J.M. Coult. & Rose**

smooth desert-parsley
Apiaceae - carrot family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G3 / S2



General Description: Hairless, slightly whitish waxy, taprooted perennial, 2.5-4 dm tall, with several flowering stems arising from a branched, woody caudex. Leaves mostly basal, the tallest almost as high as the inflorescence; blades ternate-pinnately dissected into linear segments 1-3 cm x 1-2 mm.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence a compound umbel with rays of different lengths, the longer 3-5 cm. Umbellets 10-30; fruiting pedicels mostly 4-10 mm long; flowers yellow, densely packed. Involucel absent or with 1-2 inconspicuous bristlelike bractlets. Flowers April to May.

Fruits: Hairless, dry schizocarp, elliptic, 7-12 mm long, wings thin, half as wide to nearly as wide as the body. Most plants are in fruit by June.

Identification Tips: *L. laevigatum* occurs in the same range as *L. triternatum*, *L. grayi*, *L. leptocarpum* and *L. brandegeei*. *L. laevigatum* differs from *L. triternatum* in being hairless and whitish waxy rather than pubescent with very small hairs. Additionally, *L. triternatum* has a simple to sometimes few-branched caudex, while the caudex of *L. laevigatum* is stout and strongly branched. *L. grayi* is distinguished by its very finely dissected leaves with several hundred to more than a thousand ultimate segments. *L. laevigatum* differs from *L. leptocarpum* in having an inconspicuous or absent involucel.

Range: Columbia River Gorge in WA and adjacent OR.

Habitat/Ecology: Ledges and crevices of basalt cliffs along the Columbia River and adjacent rocky slopes of sagebrush steppe. Adapted to dry, rocky habitats, where it faces a minimal amount of competition. Associated species include arrowleaf buckwheat (*Eriogonum compositum*), spring draba (*Draba verna*), fernleaf biscuitroot (*Lomatium dissectum*), Gray's biscuitroot (*Lomatium grayi*), cutleaf thelypody (*Thelypodium laciniatum*), brome fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*), and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*). Elevations in WA: 50-300 m (180-960 ft).

Comments: This species is also rare in OR. Its limited distribution and small population size are the primary factors responsible for its status. The primary land use in its range is livestock grazing, which may lead to an increase in nonnative species. Development and quarry activities are also potential threats.

References: Jolley 1988.



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