

***Trifolium plumosum* Douglas ex Hook. var. *plumosum***

plumed clover

Fabaceae - pea family

status: State Threatened, BLM strategic, USFS strategic

rank: G4T4 / S1



**General Description:** Rhizomatous perennial with simple stems 20-50 cm tall, bearing long, soft, shaggy but unmatted hairs on its stems and leaves. Leaves compound; leaflets 3, linear to linear-elliptic, 5-9 cm x 2-5 (7) mm, with a finely toothed margin, often folded at the prominent vein and curling lengthwise into a sickle shape. Stipules lanceolate, 1.5-3 cm long.

**Floral Characteristics:** Heads cylindrical, 3-5 x 2-2.5 cm, terminal, lacking involucre, arising from peduncles that are often shorter than the uppermost leaves. Flowers 50-150 per head, each 14-20 mm long, white with reddish or pinkish tips. Calyx is over half as long or nearly equal to the corolla, covered with long, soft, feathery hairs, the tube with 20-25 veins, the teeth needlelike.

**Fruits:** Pods generally 1-seeded. Identifiable June to July.

**Identification Tips:** *T. plumosum* is the only perennial clover in our area that has elongate flower heads (usually nearly twice as long as thick) and a densely hairy calyx. *T. plumosum* var. *amplifolium* can be distinguished by its basal leaves, which have leaflets (8) 9-16 mm broad. Variety *plumosum* has leaflets of the basal leaves 2-5 (7) mm broad.

**Range:** Regional endemic from the Blue Mts. of southeast WA to the Blue and Wallowa Mts. of northeast OR.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Dry hillsides and meadows. Associated species include ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), lupine (*Lupinus* spp.), upland larkspur (*Delphinium nuttallianum*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*).

**Comments:** There are fewer than five occurrences of this taxon in WA; they are all on private lands. Threats include agricultural development and livestock grazing.



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