

Agoseris elata (Nutt.) Greene

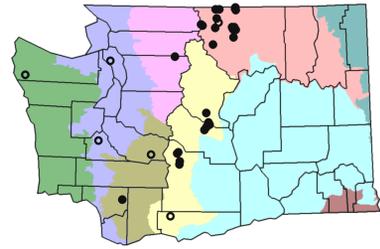
synonym: *Agoseris x elata* (Nutt.) Greene

tall agoseris

Asteraceae - aster family

status: State Sensitive

rank: G4 / S3



General Description: Stout taprooted perennial with milky juice, 20-70 cm tall, hairless or with short soft hairs. Leaves all basal, 10-30 cm x 13-76 mm, entire to pinnatifid.

Floral Characteristics: Heads solitary, borne on a leafless stem, composed of ligulate flowers only. Flowers yellow to orange, sometimes turning pinkish in drying. Involucre usually short-hairy, 2-3 cm high in fruit, bracts overlapping, the outer broader and blunter than the inner. Peduncles and involucre bracts usually with stalked glands. Flowers June to August.

Fruits: Achenes 8-10 mm long, tapering to a slender, scarcely striate beak. Beak is about equal in length to achene.

Identification Tips: Flower color is essential for accurate identification. *A. aurantiaca* has orange to brick red flowers and lacks glands on the peduncle and involucre bracts. *A. glauca* fruits have stout beaks that are usually shorter than the achene body. *Crepis* species have stem leaves and generally multiple heads per inflorescence. *Microseris* species have beakless achenes.

Range: CA, OR, WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Meadows, prairies, open woods, and exposed rocky ridges with various aspects, from low elevations to timberline. Elevations in WA: 150-2400 m (500-7800 ft). This species occurs in areas with little to no canopy cover and is assumed to be shade-intolerant. Fires have probably played a role in maintaining some of its open, meadow habitats. Associated species vary, but are generally dominated by herbaceous plants. *A. glauca* and *A. aurantiaca* sometimes co-occur with *A. elata*.

Comments: There are fewer than 50 occurrences in WA; most are small populations. *A. elata* is also rare in OR.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 19.



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