

Erigeron howellii (A. Gray) A. Gray

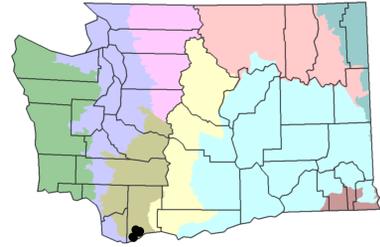
Howell's daisy

Asteraceae - aster family

status: State Threatened, Federal Species of Concern,

BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G2 / S2



General Description: Perennial from a rhizome, 2-5 dm tall, scantily short-villous under the terminal solitary flowering heads. Leaves thin, hairless, the lowermost ones with elliptical or suborbicular blades 2-8 x 1.5-4.5 cm, abruptly contracted to the 2-12 cm petiole. Middle stem leaves ovate to heart-shaped, strongly clasping at the base; upper leaves similar but smaller.

Floral Characteristics: Heads radiate, the disk 12-20 mm wide; involucre bracts loose, equal, glandular, somewhat herbaceous. Rays 30-50, white, 13-25 x 2-4 mm. Disk corollas 4-5 mm long. Flowers late May to July.

Fruits: Achenes asymmetrically 5-nerved; pappus of 20-30 thin, long bristles.

Identification Tips: *E. aliceae* is similar, but distinguished by its more elongate and hairy leaves. *E. glacialis* ssp. *glacialis* is distinguished by its basal leaves, which gradually taper to the petiole, and by its stem leaves, which are rarely both thin and strongly clasping. The disk corollas of *E. howellii* open wider than those of *E. glacialis* ssp. *glacialis*.

Range: Endemic to a narrow range within the central portion of the Columbia River Gorge of WA and OR. In OR it is known from Clackamas, Hood River, and Multnomah cos.

Habitat/Ecology: In WA, *E. howellii* occurs on steep north and northeast-facing slopes, rock faces, cliff bases and ledges, in open to semiopen, damp, herb-dominated microsites with very little soil development. Usually restricted to sites where established plants face little competition from other vegetation, but in which seedling establishment may be difficult. Portions of some populations may face competition from invading conifers, primarily Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Other associated species include serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), huckleberry (*Vaccinium* spp.), biscuitroot (*Lomatium* spp.), spreading phlox (*Phlox diffusa*), saxifrage (*Saxifraga* spp.), and western featherbells (*Stenanthium occidentale*). Elevations in WA: 300-1100 m (1100-3400 ft).

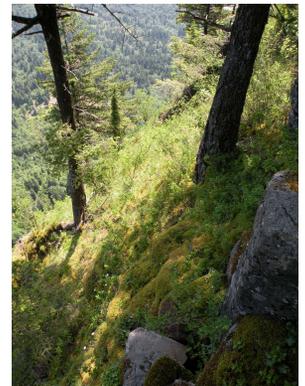
Comments: Threats include recreational use of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, timber harvest, road construction, and competition from invading plants. This species is also rare in OR.



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