

***Geum rossii* (R. Br.) Ser. *var. depressum* (Greene)**

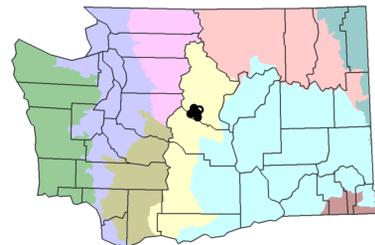
C.L. Hitchc.

Ross' avens

Rosaceae - rose family

status: State Endangered, USFS sensitive

rank: G5T1 / S1



General Description: Perennial herb with thick scaly rootstocks, forming dense clumps up to 30 cm broad. Basal leaves numerous, persisting after withering; blades oblong, (3) 4-10 (12) cm long, glandular-hairy and grayish to silvery with long soft silky hairs, interruptedly pinnate or pinnatifid with (9) 15-25 (31) leaflets. Lower leaflets have entire margins; upper leaflets are entire or have 3-5 (7) teeth. Stem leaves several, alternate, much reduced.

Floral Characteristics: Flowering stems simple, (5) 8-20 (30) cm tall, sparsely hairy. Flowers 1-4 per stem. Calyx green or slightly purplish-tinged, from nearly hairless to rough-hairy, with a shallowly funnel-shaped hypanthium 3-5 mm long; sepals usually strongly veined, 6-10 mm long, ascending to erect. Petals spreading, yellow, obovate, sometimes with a notch in the apex, 6-10 mm long. Stamens 50-70, inserted just below the petals near the tip of the hypanthium.

Fruits: Achenes 2.5-4 mm long when mature, spindle-shaped to lanceolate, hairy; styles persistent, straight (not strongly bent or jointed), hairless, about as long as the achene. Identifiable May to August.

Identification Tips: There are 3 varieties of *G. rossii* in the Pacific Northwest, but only *var. depressum* is found in the East Cascades. Other *Geum* species have leaves with terminal leaflets larger than the lower leaflets, while *G. rossii* has pinnatifid leaves that do not have a larger terminal leaflet. Some *Potentilla* species are similar, but the basal leaves in *Potentilla* generally have fewer than 15 leaflets and those leaflets have more than 3-7 teeth.

Range: Local endemic of the Wenatchee Mts., WA.

Habitat/Ecology: High-elevation rocky areas, including talus slopes, cliffs, and rock crevices. Sometimes on serpentine soils; sometimes in deep, moist soil. Common associates include whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), roundleaf alumroot (*Heuchera cylindrica*), Shasta fern (*Polystichum lemmonii*), moss campion (*Silene acaulis*), polemonium (*Polemonium pulcherrimum*), lupine (*Lupinus lepidus* var. *lobbii*), spreading phlox (*Phlox diffusa*), sandwort (*Eremogone capillaris*), and sedges (*Carex* spp.). Elevations: 2040-2560 m (6700-8400 ft).

Comments: Rocky areas in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area should be systematically surveyed for additional populations.



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
©1961 University of Washington
Press



photo by John Gamon



photo by Joe Arnett