

Phacelia minutissima L.F. Hend.

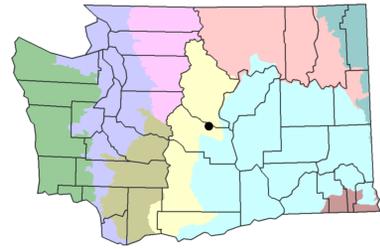
least phacelia

Hydrophyllaceae - waterleaf family

status: State Endangered, Federal Species of Concern,

BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G3 / S1



General Description: Dwarf branching annual up to 1 dm tall. Herbage shortly spreading-hairy with stalked glands throughout. Leaves mostly oblanceolate or linear-oblong, margins entire, the blade up to about 1 cm long and 4 mm wide, tapering to the shorter petiole (petiole up to 4 mm long).

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence short, few-flowered. Calyx 2.5-3 mm long at anthesis; segments narrow, linear or oblanceolate, markedly enlarging in fruit and becoming distinctly unequal in length and width, one sometimes leaflike and 1 cm or more long. Corolla tubular, 5-lobed, inconspicuous, lavender, 2.5-4 mm long. Filaments do not extend beyond the tube. Style 1 mm long or less, cleft up to half its length. Blooms in July.

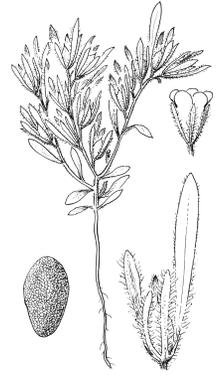


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Fruits: Capsules with about 12 reticulate-pitted seeds scarcely 1 mm long, or fewer seeds up to 1.5 mm long.

Identification Tips: *Phacelia minutissima* is a distinctive annual with unequal calyx segments, entire leaves, and filaments that do not extend beyond the corolla.

Range: Mountains of Elko Co., NV and Owyhee Co., ID; disjunct in the Wallowa Mts. of OR, the mountains of central ID, and WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Moist open places, streambanks, and meadows at middle elevations in the mountains; usually in ephemerally moist habitats. Elevations range from 1400 to 2500 m (4600-8200 ft). The WA site is at 1400 m (4600 ft), at the edge of a meadow in fairly dry, rocky soil. This site typically stays moist until midsummer. Associated species include alder (*Alnus* spp.), false hellebore (*Veratrum californicum*), aster (*Symphotrichum foliaceum*), Kittitas larkspur (*Delphinium multiplex*), and tacky goldenweed (*Pyrrocoma hirta*).

Comments: There is only 1 known occurrence in WA. This species is rare throughout its range. Livestock grazing is its greatest threat.

References: Cronquist et al. 1972-94, vol. 4.



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