

## ***Ranunculus cooleyae*** Vasey & Rose

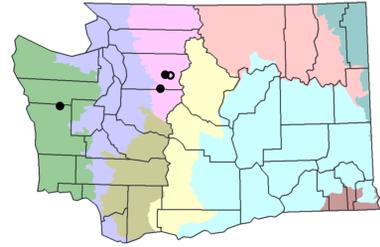
synonym: *Kumlienia cooleyae* (Vasey & Rose) Greene

Cooley's buttercup

Ranunculaceae - buttercup family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S1S2



**General Description:** Erect, hairless perennial from a fibrous root system, reaching (5) 10-35 cm in height. Does not root at the nodes. Leaves all basal, on petioles up to 15 cm long; blades circular to kidney shaped, with 3-5 deep lobes. The main lobes overlap, are further divided 2-3 more times, and have rounded teeth along the margins.

**Floral Characteristics:** Scapes leafless or with scalelike bracts about midlength, 1-flowered. Sepals 5, broadly ovate, yellow, 7-10 mm long, hairless. Petals 7-12 (15), yellow, slender, long-clawed, 8-12 mm long, showy. The V-shaped nectary scale between the blade and claw of each petal is adnate the entire length of the margins. Stamens (50) 75-125. Flowers July to mid-August, depending on snow melt; it is one of the first flowers of the season at its elevation.

**Fruits:** Achenes (30) 70-100, hairless, 2.4-4.6 mm long, elliptic in outline, with thin walls and 3 lateral veins on each face. Styler beak persistent, hooked, 1-1.8 mm in length.

**Identification Tips:** Distinctive characteristics include thin, papery achene walls; short-hooked beaks, which are shorter than the achene bodies; deeply lobed, noncompound leaves; a fibrous root system; and solitary flowers on a leafless stalks.

**Range:** Western coast of AK south to B.C., with a few populations in WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Montane gravelly alluvial slopes, talus slopes, stream outlets, lake edges, and the edges of receding snowfields, generally on north-facing slopes. Associated species include sedges (*Carex* spp.), partridgefoot (*Luetkea pectinata*), pink mountain heather (*Phyllodoce empetriformis*), copperbush (*Cladanthamnus pyroliflorus*), violet (*Viola* spp.), and Cascade blueberry (*Vaccinium deliciosum*). Elevations in WA: 700-1900 m (2500-6000 ft).

**Comments:** Threats include trampling and collecting by hikers.

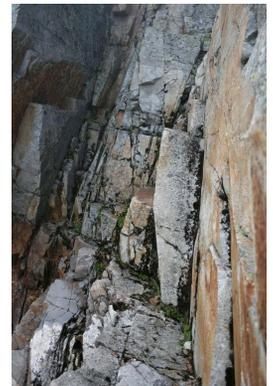
**References:** Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 3.



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