

***Sericocarpus oregonensis* Nutt. ssp. *oregonensis***

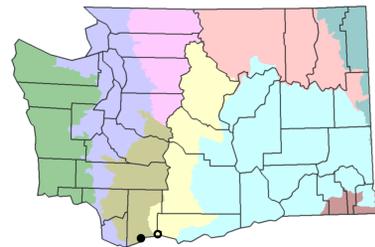
synonym: *Aster oregonensis* (Nutt.) Cronquist

Oregon white-top aster

Asteraceae - aster family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5TNR / S1



**General Description:** Perennial from a short, thickened crown, occasionally elongate into a stout creeping rhizome; 40-120 cm tall, commonly branched above and bearing several to many small clusters of flowering heads. Leaves glandular below, scabrous above and sometimes below. Lowermost leaves reduced, soon deciduous. Largest leaves a little above the base of the stem, oblanceolate with a reduced petiole, 4-8 x 1 cm, often deciduous. Middle and upper leaves sessile, lance-elliptic or oblong, numerous, gradually reduced upward.

**Floral Characteristics:** Heads radiate; involucre 7-8 mm long, bracts overlapping, white and papery below, with a strong midrib or slight keel, and a pale green herbaceous tip, often loose. Ray flowers typically (4) 5 (7), white, 4-7 mm long, longer than the pappus. Disk flowers generally 13-21, pale yellowish with purple anthers. Flowers late August to early September.

**Fruits:** Achenes with pappus of numerous capillary bristles.

**Identification Tips:** Resembles *Sericocarpus rigidus*\*, but *S. oregonensis* ssp. *oregonensis* is a taller plant, more branched, usually with several to many clusters of heads. *S. rigidus* is relatively small and simple, 10-30 cm tall, usually with a single compact cluster of heads; it has only 1-3 rays per head, each 1-3 mm long and shorter than the pappus. *S. rigidus* flowers July to August and is found in remnant prairies.

**Range:** Southwestern WA, western OR, and northern CA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Found in mesic to moist habitats, well-drained open woodlands, and dry, open, often rocky coniferous forest. In WA, it occurs in the western Columbia River Gorge; elevations range from 100 to 350 m (320-1150 ft).

**Comments:**

**References:** Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 20; Jolley 1988.



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