

# Washington Invasive Ranking System

Washington Natural Heritage Program

## *Hieracium pilosella* (Mouse-ear Hawkweed)

Assessed by

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Ecological Impact Rank: **Low** (50)

Confidence: **High** (67)

Management Difficulty Rank: High (75)

Confidence: High (90)

Biological Characteristics of Invasiveness: High (73)

Confidence: High (83)

Concern Related to Distribution and Abundance: Low (38)

Confidence: High (70)



**Photo Credit:** David Giblin 2021, used under Creative Commons license (Burke Herbarium, University of Washington, 2024).

### Ranking Notes

Rapid assessments only, based primarily on professional expertise.

The Washington State Weed Board tracks *Hieracium* subgenus *Pilosella*, which includes the species assessed in this document. Legal listings are tracked

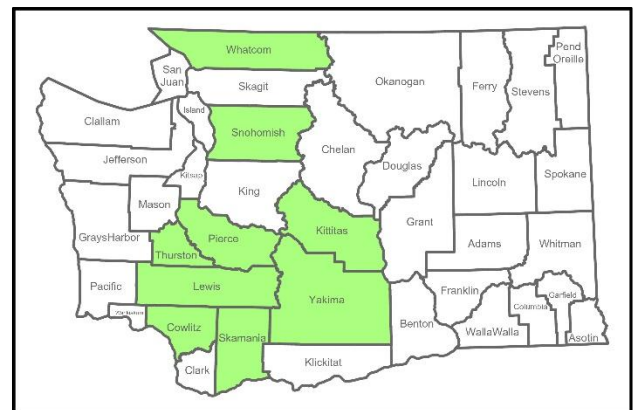
at the level of subgenus. Otherwise, the information in this document is provided at the level of species.

### Legal Listings

[Washington State Weed Board](#): *Hieracium* subgenus *Pilosella* is Class B, and all non-native *Hieracium* species and their hybrids are on the Washington State quarantine list.

[Washington Invasive Species Council](#): No

### Section 1: Distribution and Abundance



**Figure 1.** Distribution of counties where *Hieracium pilosella* has been documented in Washington State (CPNWH, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

**Q1: Current Range Size in Washington**

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

*Hieracium pilosella* is present in 23% of counties in Washington (CPNWH, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

Source: Professional expertise, Herbarium records and other observations

**Q2: Current Trend in Total Range**

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

**Q3: Proportion of Potential Range Currently Unoccupied**

Rating: High

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

**Q4: Local Range Expansion or Change in Abundance**

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

**Q5: Diversity of Ecosystems Invaded**

Ecosystem types: Grassland & Shrubland

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

**Section 2: Biological Characteristics**

**Q6: Aggressive Mode of Reproduction**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

This quick-growing species is stoloniferous.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q7: Innate Potential for Long-Distance Dispersal**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q8: Potential to be Spread by Human Activities**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional Expertise

**Q9: Allelopathy**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: Low

At least one source describes exotic hawkweeds as potentially allelopathic (Czarapata, 2005).

Source: Professional Expertise

**Q10: Competitive for Limiting Abiotic Factors**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q11: Growth Form**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

This species forms contiguous mats.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q12: Germination Requirements**

Rating: No

Confidence: High

*Hieracium pilosella* is a weed of both human and natural disturbance.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q13: Invasiveness of Other Plants in Genus**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q14: Shade Tolerance**

Rating: Low/Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q15: Disturbance Tolerance**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q16: Propagule Persistence**

Rating: <5 years

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

**Q17: Palatability**

Rating: Yes, plant is unpalatable

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

**Section 3: Ecological Impact**

**Q18: Impact on Ecosystem Abiotic Processes**

Abiotic Processes: None listed

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

**Q19: Impact on Ecosystem Structure**

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

**Q20: Impact on Ecosystem Composition**

Rating: High

Confidence: High

*Hieracium pilosella* has been observed to exclude native prairie species.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q21: Impact on Particular Native Species**

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q22: Observed Ability to Invade Undisturbed Ecosystems**

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

*Hieracium pilosella* establishes in disturbed ecosystems.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q23: Observed Ability to Invade Naturally Disturbed Ecosystems**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

This plant establishes in high-disturbance native ecosystems like prairies.

Source: Professional expertise

**Section 4: Management Difficulty**

**Q24: General Management Difficulty**

Rating: High

Confidence: High

This plant requires continual patrolling. It is cryptic due to its small size and coexistence with many other yellow asters (e.g., *Hypochaeris*). Reinvasion is frequent.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q25: Minimum Time Commitment**

Rating: High

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q26: Impacts of Management on Native Species**

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q27: Accessibility of Invaded Areas**

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

**Q28: Sociopolitical Implications of Management**

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Moderate

Objections to management are unlikely.

Source: Professional expertise

**Additional Comments**

None

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