

Washington Invasive Ranking System

Washington Natural Heritage Program

Senecio sylvaticus (Wood Groundsel)

Assessed by

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Ecological Impact Rank: **Insignificant (6)**

Confidence: **High (100)**

Management Difficulty Rank: Insignificant (0)

Confidence: High (90)

Biological Characteristics of Invasiveness: High (72)

Confidence: High (75)

Concern Related to Distribution and Abundance: Moderate (58)

Confidence: High (80)



Photo Credit: Keir Morse 2008, used under Creative Commons license (CalPhotos, 2024).

Ranking Notes

Rapid assessment only, based primarily on professional expertise.

Legal Listings

[Washington State Weed Board](#): No

[Washington Invasive Species Council](#): No

Section 1: Distribution and Abundance

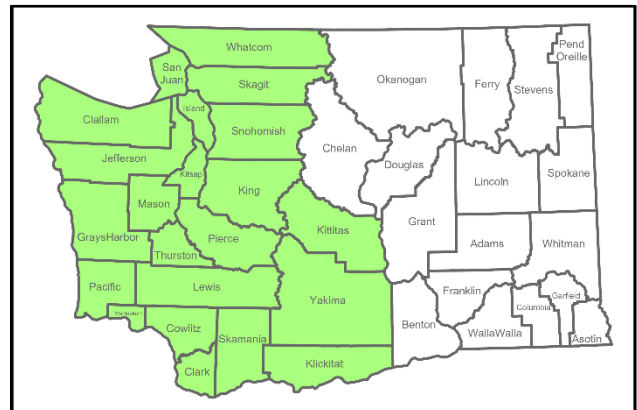


Figure 1. Distribution of counties where *Senecio sylvaticus* has been documented in Washington State (CPNWH, 2024; EDDMapS, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

Q1: Current Range Size in Washington

Rating: High

Confidence: High

Senecio sylvaticus is documented in 56% of counties in Washington State (CPNWH, 2024; EDDMapS, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

Source: Professional expertise, Herbarium records and other observations

Q2: Current Trend in Total Range

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q3: Proportion of Potential Range Currently Unoccupied

Rating: Moderate

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: Forest & Woodland, Grassland & Shrubland

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Section 2: Biological Characteristics

Q6: Aggressive Mode of Reproduction

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

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: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q10: Competitive for Limiting Abiotic Factors

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q11: Growth Form

Rating: No

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q12: Germination Requirements

Rating: No

Confidence: High

This is a weed of clearcuts and wildfires.

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

This species seems to require major disturbance, particularly clearcutting and wildfires. The assessor has seldom seen it in other settings and it typically

only remains on site for a couple of years following disturbance.

Source: Professional expertise

Q16: Propagule Persistence

Rating: >20 years

Confidence: Moderate

It is likely that the seed bank lasts from one major disturbance to the next.

Source: Professional expertise

Q17: Palatability

Rating: Yes, plant is unpalatable

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Section 3: Ecological Impact

Q18: Impact on Ecosystem Abiotic Processes

Abiotic Processes: None listed

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q19: Impact on Ecosystem Structure

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

This species has only short-lived impacts. Plants are present for only a couple years in recently disturbed areas, potentially reducing recruitment of longer-lived species during that time.

Source: Professional expertise

Q20: Impact on Ecosystem Composition

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

This species might reduce recruitment for a year or two following major disturbance.

Source: Professional expertise

Q21: Impact on Particular Native Species

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q22: Observed Ability to Invade Undisturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q23: Observed Ability to Invade Naturally Disturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

This species can follow fire, but it's more common in forested landscapes than grasslands.

Source: Professional expertise

Section 4: Management Difficulty

Q24: General Management Difficulty

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

People do confuse this species with tansy ragwort, which is mandated for control in most places. However, there is no need for control, and this species will disappear on its own after a couple of years.

Source: Professional expertise

Q25: Minimum Time Commitment

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q26: Impacts of Management on Native Species

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q27: Inaccessibility of Invaded Areas

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q28: Sociopolitical Implications of Management

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Additional Comments

None

References

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