

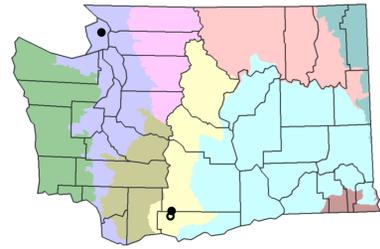
***Liparis loeselii* (L.) Rich.**

bog twayblade

Orchidaceae - orchid family

status: State Endangered, BLM strategic, USFS strategic

rank: G5 / S1



General Description: Hairless perennial with 2 large basal leaves from an enlarged, bulblike base; peduncle leafless, 7-26 cm tall. Leaves 2, basal, oblong-elliptic, 5-18 x 1-4 cm, narrowed to winged petioles, with parallel veins.

Floral Characteristics: Raceme several-flowered, terminal. Floral bracts minute, linear-lanceolate. Flowers white to green or yellowish green; sepals 5-7 mm long, 3-nerved. Petals 1-nerved, 4-5 mm long, much narrower than the sepals; lip (lowermost petal) 4-5.5 x 2.2-3.5 mm long, not lobed, oblong-oval, abruptly pointed, curved downward, spur lacking.

Fruits: Oblong to ellipsoid capsules, 9-13 x 3-6 mm, veins often slightly winged; pedicel 3-7 mm. Identifiable in June.

Identification Tips: This is the only *Liparis* in WA. Other similar genera include *Listera* and *Platanthera*. *Listera* species have leaves borne near midstem, rather than basally. *Platanthera* species have a spur on the lowermost petal.

Range: Eastern U.S., from Nova Scotia to AL, west to the Great Lakes region, Sask., sporadically to ND, NE, MT, B.C., and WA. Also in Europe.

Habitat/Ecology: Springs, bogs, wetlands, and wet sunny places in Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forests. Associated species include thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*), bog willow (*Salix pedicellaris*), swamp laurel (*Kalmia microphylla*), adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum pusillum*), skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*), sedges (*Carex* spp.), roundleaf sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), common buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), trailing St. John's-wort (*Hypericum anagalloides*), marsh cinquefoil (*Comarum palustre*), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), and sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum* spp.). Both sites in WA are in boggy wetlands. The population in San Juan Co. occurs in a diverse wetland complex, but the species is restricted to the sedge-dominated sphagnum bog portion.

Comments: Disjunct in WA, with 2 extant occurrences. The San Juan Co. population might be extirpated. Primary threats in WA are changes in hydrology, livestock grazing, and recreational activities. This species is rare in several states and Canadian provinces.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 26; Luer 1975.



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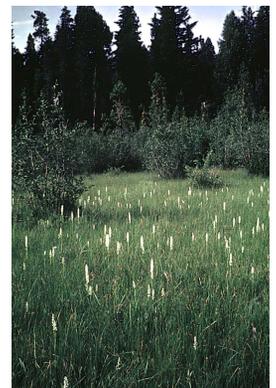


photo by Linda Kunze