

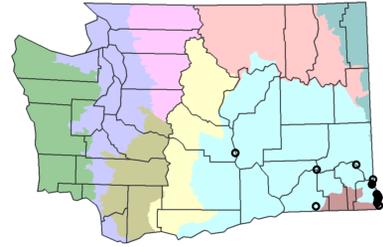
Lomatium serpentinum (M.E. Jones) Mathias

Snake Canyon desert-parsley

Apiaceae - carrot family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive

rank: G4 / S2



General Description: Parsley-scented perennial with a thick, woody taproot and branching caudex, usually 15-40 cm tall at maturity. Leaves essentially all basal, hairless or obscurely roughened by papillae, bright green, and ternate-pinnately dissected into numerous small segments (1-6 x 2.5 mm) lying in the same plane.

Floral Characteristics: Peduncle leafless. Umbels 10-17 rayed, the fruiting rays unequal, the longer 2-8 cm at maturity; umbellets with many bright yellow flowers. Involucrel of several well-developed, narrow bractlets. Fruiting pedicels 3-15 mm long. Flowers April to July.

Fruits: Oblong schizocarp, hairless, 5.5-10 mm long, wings thin and at least half as wide to fully as wide as the body.

Identification Tips: *Lomatium grayi* is much more finely dissected, with several hundred to a thousand narrow ultimate segments that lie in numerous planes.

Range: Regional endemic of the Snake River and its tributaries in western ID, eastern OR, and southeastern WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Lower elevations just above river level in moderately deep sandy or rocky soil; mostly within rock crevices or clefts on open, moderate to steep slopes. Sites in WA are in shady areas on old floodplains, atop granite outcrops, on basaltic ledges along rapids, and on basalt talus. It is usually found in sparsely vegetated areas with no overstory. Associated species include netleaf hackberry (*Celtis reticulata*), Wallace's spikemoss (*Selaginella wallacei*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), lichens, and mosses. Elevations in WA: 200-400 m (750-1200 ft).

Comments: The range of this species is relatively small, accounting for its status. Although it may be threatened by livestock grazing, its rocky habitat somewhat limits access by grazing animals. Damming of the Snake River has destroyed much of its habitat downstream from Clarkston, WA. Populations near the Snake River Canyon may be threatened by agricultural development.

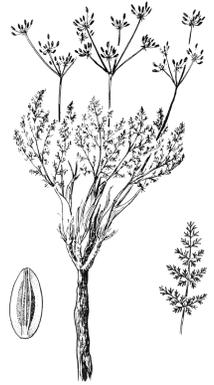


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