

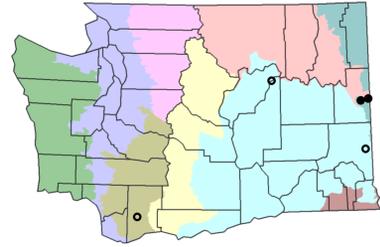
***Penstemon wilcoxii* Rydb.**

Wilcox's penstemon

Scrophulariaceae - figwort family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4 / S1



General Description: Adapted from Strickler (1997): Perennial 3-10 dm tall with glandular-hairy inflorescences; stems clustered, slender, hairless to sometimes finely pubescent. Leaves opposite, serrate with slender teeth. Basal leaf blades elliptic to triangular, 9 x 5 cm, longer or shorter than the petiole. Stem leaf blades mostly sessile, clasping, lanceolate to heart-shaped, hairless, sometimes larger than the basal leaves, 4-10 x (0.8) 1.5-4 cm.

Floral Characteristics: Large, loose, broadly spreading panicles with 10 or more flowering stems. Calyx 2.5-5 mm long; segments 5, broadly lanceolate to ovate, margins membranous and irregularly toothed. Corolla bright blue to bluish purple, externally glandular-hairy, 15-23 mm long, funnel-shaped, strongly two-lipped with the lower much longer than the upper, with a pale colored, striped throat. The raised portion of the lower petal is lightly bearded with yellow hairs. Stamens 4; anthers oval and slightly boat-shaped to flat, 0.7-1 mm long, hairless except for toothed sutures, opening completely, with the sacs becoming nearly opposite. Sterile stamen yellow-bearded, longer than the fertile stamens, recurved at the tip. Blooms May to July.

Fruits: Capsules usually hairless, 4-6 mm; seeds about 1 mm long.

Identification Tips: *Penstemon ovatus* occurs west of the Cascades and has coarse-toothed and finely pubescent leaves and a strongly glandular inflorescence. In contrast, *P. wilcoxii* occurs east of the Cascades, has fine-toothed, hairless leaves and a lightly to moderately glandular inflorescence.

Range: ID, northwest MT, northeast OR, and eastern WA. There is also a historical Skamania Co., WA collection of questionable identity.

Habitat/Ecology: Grows in a range of habitats, from shrubby areas, forested slopes, moist soil, and open rocky sites. Associated species include oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), mallow ninebark (*Physocarpus malvaceus*), rose (*Rosa* spp.), and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*). Elevations in WA: 700-1280 m (2300-4200 ft).

Comments: Additional surveys are needed throughout Spokane, Grant, and Whitman cos. in forested and shrubby habitats. Apparent hybrids with *P. albertinus* have been reported.

References: Strickler 1997.

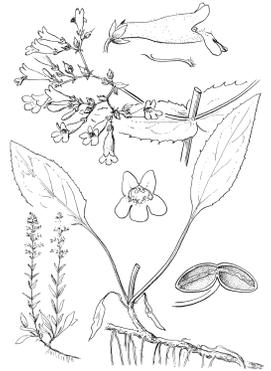


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