

Phacelia lenta Piper

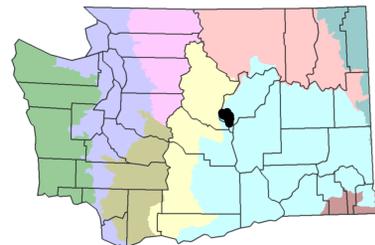
sticky phacelia

Hydrophyllaceae - waterleaf family

status: State Threatened, Federal Species of Concern,

BLM sensitive

rank: G2 / S2



General Description: Clump-forming perennial with hairy, glandular herbage. Stems 1 to many, erect, generally 1-3 dm tall, from a taproot and branched rootstock. Basal leaves up to 6 cm long, the blade about twice the length of the petiole; blades about twice as long as broad and bipinnatifid, divided into 4-9 paired lobes, each lobe being again incised up to 2/3 of the way to the middle. Stem leaves gradually become smaller and nearly sessile upward.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence 3-7 cm, branched, with tightly packed clusters of flowers; branches are curved cymes, with flowers restricted to the upper sides. Corollas white, persistent, 6-8 mm long, cleft into 5 rounded lobes, inner surface hairy. Stamens exerted, 15-20 mm long, filaments hairless, purple, turning brown with age. Flowers mid-April to mid-June.

Fruits: Capsules produce 15-20 small black seeds. Capsules develop in early June; seeds dehisce as early as late June.

Identification Tips: *Phacelia lenta* is mentioned briefly in Hitchcock *et al.* (1955-1969) but is not treated in the key. It is not in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973). It can be distinguished from other *Phacelia* spp. within its range by its combination of characters: clump-forming perennial habit, glandular-sticky herbage, bipinnatifid leaves, persistent white corollas, and long-exserted stamens with purple filaments.

Range: Endemic to Douglas Co., WA, from an area of approximately 19 x 13 km (12 x 8 mi.).

Habitat/Ecology: Arid Columbia Basin basalt cliff crevices, ledges, adjacent open rocky habitats, cracks in basalt outcrops, and occasionally on talus below rock outcrops. Elevations: 400-1040 m (1300-3400 ft). Usually there is very little other vegetation present. However, due to the harshness of the environment, competition may be quite high for suitable microsites.

Comments: Suitable habitat comprises only a small percentage of the area within this taxon's range. Potential threats include direct destruction of its habitat, such as by rock quarrying, road construction, and aerial application of herbicides to adjacent agricultural fields.

References: Alverson 1982; Gillett 1960.



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