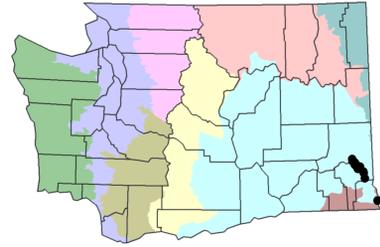


Rubus nigerrimus (Greene) Rydb.

northwest raspberry

Rosaceae - rose family

status: State Endangered, Federal Species of Concern,
BLM sensitive
rank: G1 / S1



General Description: Shrubby perennial; stems erect to trailing, up to 5 m long, densely armed with straight or hooked prickles, some of which are strongly flattened. Leaves compound, with lobed to toothed margins, greenish and hairless on both surfaces (only slightly paler beneath). Leaves on flowering stems in groups of 3; leaves on first-year (non-flowering) stems in groups of 5 with the lower 2 lacking petioles.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers loosely clustered at the ends of the branches. Pedicels and calyx very lightly glandular-hairy. Sepals 5-8 mm long. Petals white, often greater than 5 in number, 4-7 mm long. Stamens numerous; pistils 25-40. Blooms May to early June.

Fruits: Raspberry-like aggregate drupelets; moderately succulent, blackish, hairless. Fruits ripen late June to mid-July.

Identification Tips: *R. leucodermis* is similar, but the undersides of its leaves are white from short woolly hairs. In contrast, *R. nigerrimus* leaves are typically hairless on both surfaces. However, some individuals are ambiguous.

Range: Local endemic; restricted to approximately 32 x 6 km (20 x 4 mi.).

Habitat/Ecology: Bottoms of steep, narrow drainages and moist areas on adjacent slopes, along tributaries to the Snake River. Occurs in seasonally moist habitats that dry out by late spring or early summer. Associated species include black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*), black hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*), Lewis's mock-orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), willow (*Salix* spp.), and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*) and whitebark raspberry (*Rubus leucodermis*) are present at several sites and are probably direct competitors. Elevations: 200-750 m (700-2400 ft).

Comments: The species has a very small range, few occurrences, and small total numbers. Most potential habitat has been altered by dam construction and subsequent inundation, grazing, and road and railroad construction. Known sites have been significantly altered, primarily due to livestock grazing; aggressive nonnative species and herbicides are also threats. The primary focus of habitat management should be recovery of riparian areas.



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