

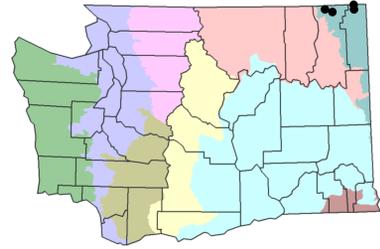
Salix candida Flügge ex Willd.

hoary willow

Salicaceae - willow family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S1



General Description: Low shrub (0.2) 5-12 (15) dm tall, with tiny flowers clustered in catkins; twigs densely white-woolly when young. Leaves simple, alternate, slender, oblanceolate to narrowly oblong, thick, firm to the touch, 4.5-8.5 (15) x 0.7-1.5 (2.3) cm. Undersides white with long, slender, tangled appressed hairs; upper surfaces dark green, wrinkled, nearly hairless or weakly white-woolly. Margins entire and rolled under. Petioles 5-10 mm long. Winter buds covered with a single, nonresinous, caplike scale.

Floral Characteristics: Male and female catkins borne on separate plants. Catkin scales brown, persistent, woolly to long-hairy. Male catkins 1.5-2.5 cm long, 1 cm wide or less; stamens 2, anthers purple, filaments free, hairless. Female catkins (2) 3-5 (6) cm long at maturity; style and stigma reddish, style 0.8-1.7 mm long, stigmas minute, 0.2-0.5 mm, 2-lobed. Flowers in May when leaves emerge.

Fruits: Pointed capsules 5-7.5 mm, with white-woolly hairs. Seeds numerous, minute, with tufts of cottony hairs.

Identification Tips: The twigs and lower leaf surfaces of *S. candida* are covered with long, slender, dense, matted, tangled, woolly appressed hairs. Similar willows have leaves with silky appressed or spreading hairs beneath, but they are not densely white-woolly. *S. candida* seldom grows over 1 m tall and its leaves are 3.5-10 times as long as wide.

Range: AK to Newfoundland, south to southern B.C. and the Rocky Mts. of ID, MT, CO, SD; east to IL, NJ, and ME. Peripheral in WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Bogs, fens, shrub wetlands, and swampy areas in peat soils; associated with limestone. Elevations in WA: 600-900 m (2000-2950 ft). Associated species include thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*), Cascara buckthorn (*Frangula purshiana*), willows (*Salix* spp.), birch (*Betula glandulosa*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *sericea*), and sedges (*Carex utricularia*, *C. lasiocarpa*, *C. rostrata*, and others). This species is sensitive to hydrologic changes.

Comments: Threats include hydrologic alteration by local beaver populations and timber harvesting. This species is also rare in the Yukon, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, AK, ID, MT, CO, SD, and several midwestern and eastern states.



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