

R6 SENSITIVE VASCULAR PLANT PROFILE

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Date Prepared: June 2002

Species Common Name: Columbia Crest

Species Scientific Name: *Rorippa columbiae* Suksdorf ex T. J. Howell

Suspected or Documented Occurrence on USFS Region 6 National Forests:

Fremont National Forest: Suspected

Winema National Forest: Documented

Description:

Rhizomatous perennial, finely hirsute to papillose throughout, the stems 1-4 dm long, usually somewhat weak (and decumbent or spreading) to erect, rather freely branched; leaves 3-7 cm long, pinnatifid, the lower ones petiolate, the upper ones sessile and often somewhat auriculate, the segments ovate to oblong, often toothed; pedicels spreading to ascending, 4-8 mm long; sepals not saccate at the base, tending to persist after anthesis; petals light yellow, about 4 mm; siliques ascending to erect, oblong, usually somewhat arcuate, 4-7 mm long, 2-2.5 mm broad, soft pubescent; style 1-2 mm long; stigma entire (Meinke, 1982).

Habitat and Distribution:

Habitat: Most sites are located on moist areas in gravelly soil, generally along rivers, near springs, or in sites that are vernal wet, probably at lower to middle elevations (Meinke, 1982). Meinke (2002) restated the habitat to include the drying edges of shallow lakes or occasionally along seasonal riverbeds. The habitat can also be found on cyclically moist banks (Meinke, 2002).

Distribution: *Rorippa columbiae* can be found in Oregon, Washington, and California and farther east, reportedly as far as Nebraska (Meinke, 2002). In Oregon, *Rorippa columbiae* can be found in Klamath, Lake, and Harney counties (Meinke, 2002).

Look Alikes: The yellow flowered species of *Rorippa* appear quite similar (Meinke, 1982). *Rorippa columbiae* can be distinguished by its rhizomatous habit, pinnatifid or lyrate pinnate leaves, and the rather stubby, oblong fruit (Meinke, 1982).

Abundance:

Although this species occurs in several states, it is rare in all of them (Meinke, 2002).

Phenology:

Rorippa columbiae flowers from May to late October. Under certain circumstances, this species will rely on vegetative reproduction instead of seed reproduction.

Threats/Potential Impacts of Management Activities:

No threats or potential impacts of management activities are known on the Fremont National Forest at this time.

Mechanisms Providing for Species Conservation and Protection:

Mechanisms needed to provide conservation and protection for this species are not needed at this time on the Fremont National Forest since no populations have been found. Currently, the Winema National Forest has a conservation strategy in place for *Rorippa columbiae*.

Prepared by: Robert Wooley and Jeannette Wilson

References:

Meinke, Robert J. 2002, March. Evaluating the Life History and Restoration Potential for the Sensitive *Rorippa columbiae* (Brassicaceae) on the Winema National Forest. Prepared under U.S. Forest Service (Winema National Forest) Grant Agreement No. 01-CS-110620-015.

Meinke, Robert J. 1982. Threatened and Endangered Vascular Plants of Oregon: An Illustrated Guide. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Rorripa columbiae

