Washington Invasive Ranking System

Washington Natural Heritage Program

Hieracium pilosella (Mouse-ear Hawkweed)

Assessed by
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Ecological Impact Rank: **Low** (50)	Confidence: **High** (67)
Management Difficulty Rank: High (75)	Confidence: High (90)
Biological Characteristics of Invasiveness: High (73)	Confidence: High (83)
Concern Related to Distribution and Abundance: Low (38)	Confidence: High (70)

Photo Credit: David Giblin 2021, used under Creative Commons license (Burke Herbarium, University of Washington, 2024).

Ranking Notes

Rapid assessments only, based primarily on professional expertise.

The Washington State Weed Board tracks *Hieracium* subgenus *Pilosella*, which includes the species assessed in this document. Legal listings are tracked at the level of subgenus. Otherwise, the information in this document is provided at the level of species.

Legal Listings

Washington State Weed Board: *Hieracium* subgenus *Pilosella* is Class B, and all non-native *Hieracium* species and their hybrids are on the Washington State quarantine list.

Washington Invasive Species Council: No

Section 1: Distribution and Abundance

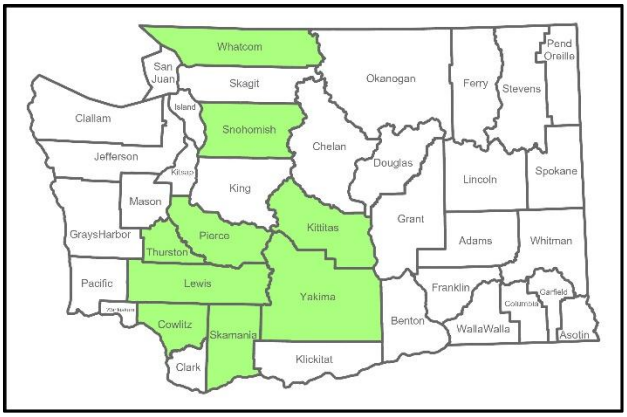

Figure 1. Distribution of counties where *Hieracium pilosella* has been documented in Washington State (CPNWH, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Q1: Current Range Size in Washington

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Hieracium pilosella is present in 23% of counties in Washington (CPNWH, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

Source: Professional expertise, Herbarium records and other observations

Q2: Current Trend in Total Range

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q3: Proportion of Potential Range Currently Unoccupied

Rating: High

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q4: Local Range Expansion or Change in Abundance

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q5: Diversity of Ecosystems Invaded

Ecosystem types: Grassland & Shrubland

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Section 2: Biological Characteristics

Q6: Aggressive Mode of Reproduction

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

This quick-growing species is stoloniferous.

Source: Professional expertise

Q7: Innate Potential for Long-Distance Dispersal

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q8: Potential to be Spread by Human Activities

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional Expertise

Q9: Allelopathy

Rating: Yes

Confidence: Low

At least one source describes exotic hawkweeds as potentially allelopathic (Czarapata, 2005).

Source: Professional Expertise

Q10: Competitive for Limiting Abiotic Factors

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q11: Growth Form

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

This species forms contiguous mats.

Source: Professional expertise

Q12: Germination Requirements

Rating: No

Confidence: High

Hieracium pilosella is a weed of both human and natural disturbance.

Source: Professional expertise

Q13: Invasiveness of Other Plants in Genus

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q14: Shade Tolerance

Rating: Low/Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q15: Disturbance Tolerance

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q16: Propagule Persistence

Rating: <5 years

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q17: Palatability

Rating: Yes, plant is unpalatable

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Section 3: Ecological Impact

Q18: Impact on Ecosystem Abiotic Processes

Abiotic Processes: None listed

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q19: Impact on Ecosystem Structure

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q20: Impact on Ecosystem Composition

Rating: High

Confidence: High

Hieracium pilosella has been observed to exclude native prairie species.

Source: Professional expertise

Q21: Impact on Particular Native Species

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q22: Observed Ability to Invade Undisturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Hieracium pilosella establishes in disturbed ecosystems.

Source: Professional expertise

Q23: Observed Ability to Invade Naturally Disturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

This plant establishes in high-disturbance native ecosystems like prairies.

Source: Professional expertise

Section 4: Management Difficulty

Q24: General Management Difficulty

Rating: High

Confidence: High

This plant requires continual patrolling. It is cryptic due to its small size and coexistence with many other yellow asters (e.g., *Hypochaeris*). Reinvasion is frequent.

Source: Professional expertise

Q25: Minimum Time Commitment

Rating: High

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q26: Impacts of Management on Native Species

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q27: Accessibility of Invaded Areas

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q28: Sociopolitical Implications of Management

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Moderate

Objections to management are unlikely.

Source: Professional expertise

Additional Comments

None

References

Burke Herbarium, University of Washington. 2024. Burke Herbarium Image Collection. https://burkeherbarium.org/imagecollection. Accessed: December 17, 2024.

Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria (CPNWH). 2024. Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria Specimen Database. https://www.pnwherbaria.org/data/search.php. Accessed: December 20, 2024.

Czarapata E.J. 2005. *Invasive plants of the Upper Midwest: An illustrated guide to their identification and control*. The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, WI.

iNaturalist Community. 2024. Research grade observations from Washington State. https://www.inaturalist.org/. Accessed: December 24, 2024.