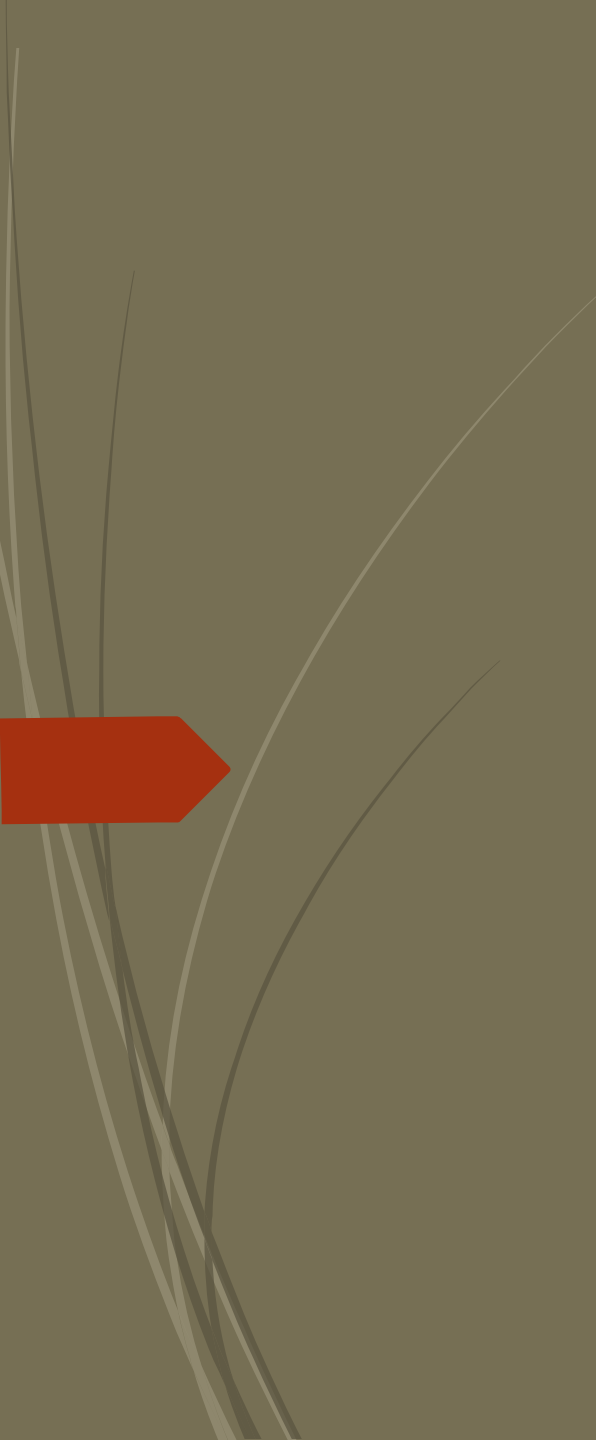




Rush skeletonweed

And potential look-alikes

Volunteers pulling and bagging rush skeletonweed from Mosier exit ramps off I84.



Bio- Controls

*(Rust not
pictured)*



Gall
Mite



Gall
Midge

Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) identification:

-Long/tall, branched stems that are green in dry times of year. Few to no leaves on stems.

Stems have coarse, brown, downward pointing hairs at base (hairless towards the top). *This is the best way to identify the plant.

-Basal rosette of leaves. Basal leaves resemble dandelion leaves and are coarsely lobed with lobes pointing back towards base of plant and spines on leaf edges. Basal leaves usually disappear when plant is blooming.

-If there are stem leaves, they are few, narrow, and may have smooth edges (not lobed).

-Plants exude a milky latex sap.

-Flowers are yellow (1/2 inch diameter) and bloom summer into fall. Usually attached directly onto stems.

-Dandelion-like seeds.

-1-5 ft tall plant with a long, slim taproot up to 8 feet deep (some sources say up to 10 ft) .



Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) blooming in late August.



Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*)



Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*)



Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*)





Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*)



Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) growing along a hiking trail.

Possible look-alikes...



Tall buckwheat (*Eriogonum elatum*)

-Tall, wiry, naked stems.

-Basal leaves. May be slightly hairy. Leaves are large and do not look like dandelion leaves.

-Blooms at same time as RSW.

-Clusters of white to pink flowers are rusty colored when fading. Rust colored seed heads could resemble skeletonweed gall mite.

-PNW native plant.



Columbia goldenweed (*Columbiadorea hallii*)

- Yellow flowers bloom at same time as RSW.
- Leafy stems (not naked).
- Leaves entire (not lobed/divided).
- Has what look like scales below flowers.
- PNW native plant.





Cat's ear (*Hypochaeris* spp.)

- Yellow flowers. Blooms same time as RSW.
- Dandelion-like leaves in a basal rosette.
- Not native to PNW but looks similar to plants that may be native.

****There are many native plants in the PNW that look similar to dandelions. Many of them bloom in spring, but basal rosettes of leaves could be mistaken for RSW.**





Scouler's hawkweed (*Hieracium scouleri*)

-Yellow flowers can bloom at same time as RSW. Has more petals (ray flowers) than RSW.

-Tall, mostly leafless stems.

-Hairy basal leaves. Leaves are entire (not lobed/divided). May diminish when plant is in bloom.

-PNW native plant.

****There are many species of hawkweeds in the PNW. Many are NOT native but some, like Scouler's hawkweed, are native.**



Narrowleaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*)

-Only mistakable for RSW because it is one of the only other tall, green plants in dry, open meadows in late summer/fall.

-Tall, leafy stems with slim, smooth, linear leaves.

-Milky sap.

-Purple-pink flowers.

-Long seed pods at end of stems with cottony seeds.

-PNW native plant.





Narrow-leaved wirelettuce (*Stephanomeria tenuifolia*)

-Overall appearance of plant is similar to RSW.

***None to very few hairs on plant.**

***Light purplish flowers. Blooms in summer and fall.**

-Narrow, linear leaves.

-Milky sap.

-Often grows in rocky cliffs.

-PNW native plant. Uncommon in our area. May be present at Tom McCall Preserve.



Rush skeletonplant (*Lygodesmia juncea*)

-This is a North American native plant that is uncommon in Oregon & Washington. No documented sightings in Mosier but may be present in the Gorge.

*Pink to white flowers. Blooms June-September.

*Plants are hairless.

-Milky sap.

-Narrow linear leaves.

