

Rush skeletonweed

Chondrilla juncea L. Sunflower Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Early season rosette resembles dandelion leaves
- ❑ Inconspicuous stem leaves cause skeleton-like plant appearance and hence the common name
- ❑ Course hairs on lower 4 to 6 inches of stem
- ❑ Yellow, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch flowers are inconspicuous and widely scattered along length of stems
- ❑ Cut stems and leaves exude milky juice (sap)
- ❑ Flower petals number from 7-15 and are squared across the end with tiny lobes or teeth



Biology and ecology

- Perennial, multi-stemmed, 1 to 4 feet tall
- Reproduces by seed and by lateral root buds
- Parachute like seeds easily spread by wind
- Extensive deep roots make control difficult
- Inhabits well drained, light textured soils
- Found in roadsides, fields, range and pasture
- Soil disturbance aids establishment
- Flowers mid July through frost



Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of fill dirt, hay and seed from outside your area

Biological - Gall midge, Gall mite and rust all well established in Stevens County and effective in limiting density and seed production

Cultural - Good vegetation inhibits establishment

Mechanical - Repeated effort required because of extensive roots and re-growth from roots and seeds

Chemical - Some are effective at label rates, particularly if applied to young growth and repeated on regrowth



Where found - Primarily in the southern 1/3 of Stevens County with the heaviest infestations along the HW 291 corridor from Spokane County to HW 231.