

Plant Identification in Central and Eastern WA Habitats

This 1-day class will cover 3 different aspects of plant identification specific to Central and Eastern Washington habitats.

Morning Session ~9-12

Introduction to Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes (~90 minutes)

Break

Weeds Common to Central and Eastern Washington (~90 minutes)

Lunch

Afternoon session

Winter Twig Identification (Approx. 3 hrs)

Introduction to Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes

This introduction to grasses, sedges, and rushes will cover the terminology needed to distinguish between these three plant families. We will also discuss why it is important to be able to recognize these species for wetland delineations, site assessments, and restoration planning. We will cover the terminology through a lecture presentation plus classroom evaluation of sample material. We will also review some of the more common native and non-native species found within these three families in Central and Eastern Washington. Finally, we will discuss how to apply species identification to site assessment and restoration planning efforts.

Recommended materials: 10x hand lens

Weeds Common to Central and Eastern Washington

This lecture presentation will cover ~20 of the most common weed species in Central and Eastern Washington. We will group species into families and describe how to easily field recognize common plant family characteristics. Students will follow along with the material covered in the presentation using the following text: Weeds of the West. As we cover the plant identification, we will also discuss which species are most significant to note and control in the context of site restoration.

Recommended Text: Weeds of the West, Tom Whitson

Winter Twig Identification

This class will introduce students to winter twig identification of wetland and riparian species common to central and eastern Washington. This skill is important because wetland delineations and site assessments often need to occur year round. This class will be useful for individuals who conduct wetland delineations as well as stream and wetland restoration.

The class will begin with a presentation covering the terminology needed to identify tree and shrub species in the winter. Then, we will look at live plant materials (collected prior to class and/or during a field visit) to become familiar with the structures covered during the presentation. We will use a winter twig key to identify samples. Over 10 tree and shrub species will be covered during the class, but more

importantly, students will gain the skills needed to utilize a key to identify species encountered in the future.

Recommended text: Winter Twigs by Gilkey and Packard.

Instructor: Jennifer Hadersberger has over 20 years of experience working in Natural Resources Management. Jennifer worked as a wetland consultant for 6 years performing wetland delineations, wetland mitigation site monitoring, and preparing permit applications and mitigation plans. Jennifer also has 14 years of experience working for government agencies including City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Oregon Department of State Lands, and Chelan County Natural Resources Department. In the public sector, Jennifer has specialized in project management, grant writing, permitting, and project development for stream and wetland restoration projects. Since 2000, Jennifer has also been teaching botany and biology classes part time for various Community Colleges and through the Portland State Environmental Professional Program. Jennifer is a Professional Wetland Scientist with a MS in Botany from Oregon State University.