Spalding’s Campion **– *Silene spaldingii* S. Wats**

**Pink Family – CARYOPHYLLACEAE**

Account written by Blair McClarin, January 2022

**Current Conservation Status:**

NatureServe: G2

Washington - S2

Oregon - S2

Montana - S2

British Columbia – S1

2009 INPS rank: GP3

BLM: Type 1

FS Reg 6: Threatened

FWS: ESA Threatened (2001)

**Species Description:** one to several vegetative or flowering stems that arise from a simple or branched persistent underground stem (caudex), which surmounts a long, narrow taproot. Plants range from 20-40 cm in height. Each stem typically bears 4-7 pairs of simple, opposite leaves that are 5-8 cm in length and 2-4 cm in width. Reproductive individuals produce 3-20 cream to pink or light green flowers that are borne in a branched, terminal inflorescence. All green portions of the plant (foliage, stem, and flower bracts) are covered in dense sticky hairs that frequently trap dust and insects, giving this species the common name “catchfly” (USFWS).

**Biology:** herbaceous perennial reproducing solely by seed; Plants (both vegetative and reproductive) emerge in mid-to late May. Flowering in Idaho occurs from late June through August

**Similar species:** *Silene scoulerii, Silene douglasii*

**Habitat:** Elevation 1,900 to 3,600 feet; Typically prairie and canyon grassland slopes; sometimes in open ponderosa pine forests. Soils are almost always productive silt/loams (moderately deep loess).

**Landownership:**  Federal, tribal, state, private

**Distribution:**

*Global Range*: restricted to remnants of the Poulouse Prairie grasslands of eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon, north-central Idaho, and western Montana (barely extending into British Columbia, Canada).

*Range Extent Descriptor:* Regional endemic

*Rank Calculator Idaho Range Extent:* approx. 4000 km2 (D)

*Area of Occupancy:* 67 grid cells (4 km2) (E)

*Idaho Counties:* Nez Perce, Latah, Lewis, and Idaho Counties

**Abundance:**

*Number of Occurrences:* 50 (45 EOs and 5 yet unassigned occurrences) (C)

*Population Size:* 2500-10,000 plants (8,000); (E)

*Number of Occurrences with Good Viability:* 17 (D)

**Conservation concerns:** Many populations with low numbers had plants with poor vigor. Some EOs revisited could not be relocated.

*Idaho Occurrences (as of 2021)*



**Proposed rank information:**

*Date Ranked:* January, 2022 (EO Rank Estimator v3.186)

*Proposed Rank:* S1S2

*Proposed INPS Status:* Rare

Comments*:* Calculator ranks this species as S2. Adjusted rank S1S2 (short and long term trends based on NatureServe’s global rank. Idaho occurrences undergoing a higher percentage of decline than global percentages). 34% of occurrences have single digit populations; 64% with < 50 plants.

*Threats:*

*Overall Threat Rank:* Very High (A); see table below.

**Population trend:**

*Short:* Decline of 10-30% (Invasive species, fire, grazing); (F)

*Long:* Decline of 50-70% (significant loss of prairie habitat); (D)



**Recommended actions:**

Inventory should be undertaken throughout the species range; additional occurrences should be targeted for protection.

**Information Sources:**

BONAP: [www.bonap.org](http://www.bonap.org). (January 2022).  
  
Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria. Herbarium Specimens from the Pacific Northwest. 2007-2019. <http://www.pnwherbaria.org> (January 2022).

NatureServe: [www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org) (January 2022).

USDA Plants: <https://plants.usda.gov/> (January 2022).

USFWS. <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3681> (January 2022).