



# RUSH SKELETONWEED

*Chondrilla juncea*

## Identification/Origin

Rush skeletonweed, native to Asia, the Mediterranean, and North Africa, belongs to the Aster Family and has yellow flowerheads. Stems, leaves, roots, and inflorescence have milky sap. The upper stems are nearly hairless, the lower of stem has downward-pointing hairs. Leaves are short and narrow, often sparse. Basal leaves form a rosette and are irregularly toothed, often with downward pointing lobes, often withering by flowering time.

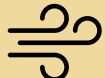
## Level of Infestation in Montana

Rush skeletonweed was first reported in the United States near Spokane, Washington in 1938. A small infestation was found in Sanders County, Montana in 1987. It is still being actively managed there, as well as in Lincoln, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Flathead, and Ravalli counties. It is listed as a Priority 1B noxious weed in Montana.

## Pathways



Livestock or contaminated feed



Passive spread (wind/water)



Nursery



Hiking, biking, & other trail use



Cars, trucks, trailers, highway vehicles



Utah State University Bugwood.org





Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.com

## Reporting

To report a suspected rush skeletonweed plant, submit a report on EDDMapS and contact your local Extension agent or county weed coordinator or the Montana Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed EDRR Program at [MTEDRR@mt.gov](mailto:MTEDRR@mt.gov).

## Impacts

Rush skeletonweed competes for soil moisture and nutrients with grains in cropping systems and desired plants in rangeland. It rapidly spread throughout the wheat-growing area of southeastern Australia and caused significant yield reductions. It can form dense monocultures on rangeland, reducing forage for cattle and wildlife.

## Regional Ramifications

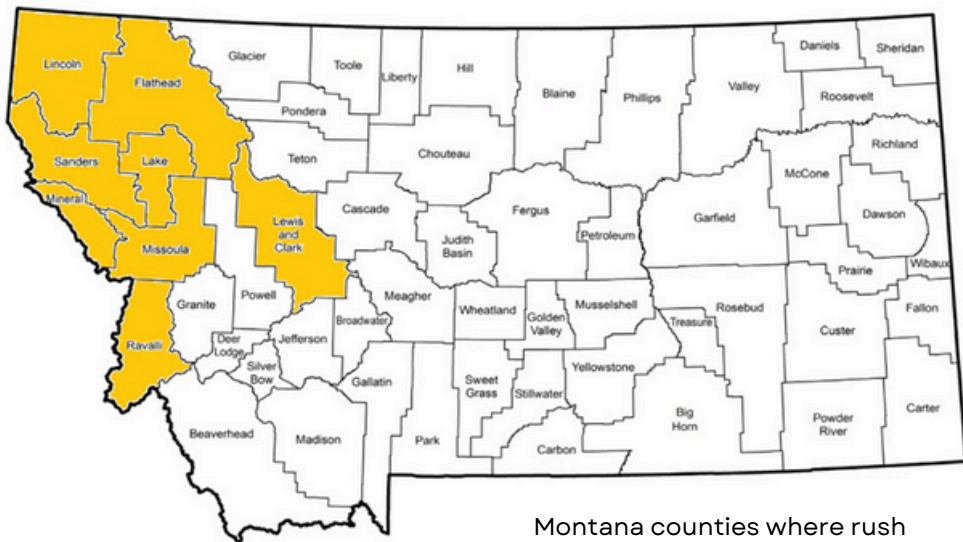
Rush skeletonweed is a high-priority species for Montana due to its limited presence here and our close proximity to large infestations in Idaho. Furthermore, rush skeletonweed could have devastating impacts on agriculture in Montana if it becomes well-established.

## More Information

For additional resources and contact information, visit the Early Detection, Rapid Response webpage here: [agr.mt.gov/Noxious-Weeds](http://agr.mt.gov/Noxious-Weeds).



Gary L. Piper, Washington State University, Bugwood.com



Montana counties where rush skeletonweed has been observed.  
MDA 2024