

RED TAIL/CURRENT CREEK WILDFLOWER WALK

early May

Description: from Dry Creek Road trailhead between Cartwright Road and Seamans Gulch Road on north side of Hidden Springs, follow Red Tail Trail to Currant Creek. Return via same route, or follow north side of Currant Creek west and return via south side of Lookout Loop. Plants are listed within categories in likely order of occurrence from trailhead; some might not yet be in bloom, or present during a particular year. Difficulty: 2 to 2½ miles roundtrip, ~300 foot total elevation gain (and loss, crossing over dividing ridge). * indicates native species

WILDFLOWERS

Stork- or cranesbill, filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*)

***Cleavers, bedstraw, stickywilly, goose-grass** (*Galium aparine*)

***Western hawksbeard** (*Crepis occidentalis*)

***Fiddleneck** (*Amsinckia* spp.) – species difficult to distinguish

***Hareleaf** (*Lagophylla ramosissima*)

***Tolmie's onion** (*Allium tolmiei*; variety uncertain) – large colony here, but unknown elsewhere in Boise Front

***Hermit milkvetch** (*Astragalus eremiticus*)

***Longleaf phlox** (*Phlox longifolia*) intergrading with more compact ***Pricklyleaf phlox** (*Phlox aculeata*),

***Yarrow** (*Achillea millefolium*)

***Arrowleaf balsamroot** (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*)

***Sagebrush false-dandelion** (*Nothocalais troximoides*, previously in *Microseris*) – similar species without entire or ripple-margined leaves bloom later

***Narrowleaf biscuitroot** (*Lomatium simplex*, previously included in *L. triternatum*, nine-leaf biscuitroot)

***Gray-green thistle** (*Cirsium cymosum* var. *canovirens*) – the only locally native thistle

***Barestem biscuitroot, pestle-parsnip** (*Lomatium nudicaule*)

***Longspur plectritis, Wedding-cake plant** (*Plectritis macrocera*)

Spreading wallflower (*Erysimum repandum*) – non-native annual

***Bastard toadflax** (*Comandra umbellata* var. *pallida*)

***Woolly-pod milkvetch** (*Astragalus purshii* var. *glareosus*)

***Eyelashweed or blepharipappus** (*Blepharipappus scaber*)

***Threadleaf phacelia** (*Phacelia linearis*)

Desert alyssum (*Alyssum desertorum*) and/or **pale alyssum** (*Alyssum alyssoides*) – widespread non-natives, difficult to tell apart; also called madwort

***Whitestem mentzelia or blazingstar** (*Mentzelia albicaulis*)

***Tufted or desert evening-primrose** (*Oenothera cespitosa* ssp. *marginata*)

***Freckled or broadleaf milkvetch** (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *chartaceus*) – not known from elsewhere in the Boise Foothills

Lewis's flax (*Linus lewisii*) – native to Idaho, but most (all?) populations in Boise foothills result from post-fire seeding

***Longspur or polychrome lupine** (*Lupinus arbustus* [= *L. laxiflorus* in older references])

Small or garden burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*, alternatively *Poterium sanguisorba*) – non-native, frequently included in post-fire seeding mixes for livestock and wildlife forage

***Butterfly biscuitroot** (*Lomatium papilioniferum*; previously included in *L. grayii*)

***Common camas** (*Camassia quamash*)

***Wild-hyacinth, large-flowered triteleia, or Douglas's brodiaea** (*Triteleia grandiflora*, previously *Brodiaea douglasii*)

NOXIOUS AND/OR INVASIVE WEEDS (not all in bloom)

Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) -- other annual *Bromus* also present

Mouse or wall barley (*Hordeum murinum*)

Blue mustard (*Chorispora tenella*)

Flixweed, Herb Sophia (*Descurainia sophia*)
Bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*)
Feral or Cereal Rye (*Secale cereale*)
Perfoliate pennycress (*Microthlaspi perfoliatum*)
Whitetop (*Lepidium* [previously *Cardaria*] *draba*)
Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*)
Tumble or Jim Hill mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*)
Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)
Medusahead grass (*Taeniatherum/Elymus caput-medusae*)
Moth mullein (*Verbascum blattaria*)
Clasping pepperweed (*Lepidium perfoliatum*)
Prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*)
Yellow salsify or goat's-beard (*Tragopogon dubius*)
Common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)
Rattail fescue (*Vulpia/Festuca myuros*)

SHRUBS AND TREES (mostly not in bloom)

***Basin big sagebrush** (*Artemisia tridentata* subsp. *tridentata*)
 ***Rubber rabbitbrush** (*Ericameria* [formerly *Chrysothamnus*] *nauseosa*)
 ***Bitterbrush, Antelope brush** (*Purshia tridentata*)
 ***Golden currant** (*Ribes aureum*)
 ***Netleaf hackberry** (*Celtis reticulata*)
Dog rose (*Rosa canina*) – non-native, invasive in some spots
 ***Black cottonwood** (*Populus trichocarpa*) – other species and/or hybrids possibly present
 ***Syringa, Lewis's mockorange** (*Philadelphus lewisii*)
 ***Willows** (*Salix* spp.) – several species locally, most are difficult to distinguish

PRIMARY BUNCHGRASSES (mostly not in bloom, but evident)

***Squirreltail grass** (*Elymus elymoides*, previously *Sitanion hystrix*)
 ***Threeawn grass** (*Aristida purpurea* var. *longiseta*)
Intermediate wheatgrass (*Thinopyrum intermedium*, alternatively in *Elytrigia* or *Elymus*)
 ***Sandberg bluegrass** (*Poa secunda*)
 ***Bluebunch wheatgrass** (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*, alternatively in *Agropyron* or *Elymus*) – both native-to-site and planted races from other sites probably present
Sheep fescue (*Festuca ovina*) – local populations probably all intentionally introduced
 ***Great Basin wildrye** (*Leymus cinereus*, previously in *Elymus*)
Crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) – widely planted non-native

OPTIONAL RETURN VIS CURRANT CREEK AND LOOKOUT LOOP (not all in bloom)

***Silver or western mugwort** (*Artemisia ludoviciana* var. *ludoviciana*)
 ***Baltic rush** (*Juncus balticus*)
 ***Starry Solomon's-seal** (*Maianthemum/Smilacina stellata*)
 ***Western poison-ivy** (*Toxicodendron rydbergii*, alternatively *Rhus radicans*) – CAUSES DERMATITIS
 ***Interior or Wood's rose** (*Rosa woodsii* subsp. *ultramontana*) – native, with slender prickles
 ***Black hawthorn** (*Crataegus douglasii*)
Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) – non-native tree
 ***Goldenrod** (*Solidago* sp.) – fall-blooming, species difficult to distinguish
St. Johnswort, Klamathweed (*Hypericum perforatum*) – invasive non-native, not in bloom
Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus/dicolor/procerus*) – tasty but invasive non-native
various unidentified grasses
Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) – non-native, not in bloom
 ***Western virgin's-bower** (*Clematis ligusticifolia*) – vine; not in bloom
Cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*) – non-native tree

Velvetweed or small-flowered gaura (*Oenothera curtiflora*, previously *Gaura parviflora* or *G. mollis*) – not native to Boise foothills, possibly in post-fire seeding; not in bloom

Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*)

***Smooth scouring-rush** (*Equisetum laevigatum*)

***Povertyweed** (*Iva axillaris*) – might not be in bloom

***Nuttall's or slender cinquefoil** (*Potentilla gracilis* var. *fastigiata*) – might not be in bloom

***Canary, Nuttall's, or upland yellow violet** (*Viola praemorsa*, alternatively a variety of *V. nuttallii*)

***Common miner's lettuce** (*Claytonia/Montia perfoliata*, possibly other species as well)

***American vetch** (*Vicia americana*) – probably not yet in bloom

***Oregon checkermallow** (*Sidalcea oregana*) – probably not yet in bloom

***Sandbar willow** (*Salix exigua*)

***Ballhead waterleaf, woolly-breeches** (*Hydrophyllum capitatum*)

***Foothill death-camas** (*Toxicoscordion/Zigadenus paniculatum*)

***Western or intermediate dogbane** (*Apocynum floribundum*) – not in bloom

***Tapertip onion** (*Allium acuminatum*)

***Dustymaiden or Bride's-bouquet** (*Chaenactis douglasii*)

Barbara Ertter, 3 May 2018, updated May 2019