What to do if you find it:

Make an observation

The first thing to do is to **record your observation**. We prefer to use the iNaturalist app for that (visit www.iNaturalist.org to learn more), but you could also upload your observation to Mushroom Observer (visit www.MushroomObserver.org). The QR code to the right will take you to the Fungal Diversity Survey (FunDiS for short) website to explain how to contribute to the project.

fundis.org/protect/take-action

The best thing you can do is take *lots* of photographs and notes. Typically, smartphones will automatically georeference any photos taken, but it is good practice to note your exact location, preferably with GPS coordinates, and **be sure to note what trees are nearby**, and any other salient features. For example, was it growing under a hemlock, or Douglas fir? Did it have a particular smell?

Collect a specimen

If you are in an area where it is allowed and have any necessary permits, **we strongly urge you to create a vouchered collection**. This means a dried specimen for deposit in a herbarium, where researchers can access it for things like DNA sequencing. If you don't know how to do this, please see:

fundis.org/sequence/sequence/dry-your-specimens

In California, collecting mushrooms is usually allowed in National Forests **with a permit**. Permits can be obtained at the headquarters of the National Forest you're visiting, and are usually inexpensive or free. However, restrictions vary among the individual National Forests, so make sure to find out the specifics when picking up your permit. In Oregon and Washington, you are typically allowed to collect one gallon without a permit on most public lands.

Don't forget to look for other mushrooms and fungi while you're at it! Keep your eyes open for **mushrooms growing near snow**: many are rare, so even if you haven't found this one, you've got something neat! Since you've already got iNaturalist open, why not record your other finds?

Most mushrooms are like fruit: picking an apple from an apple tree doesn't hurt the tree. In the same way, **harvesting mushrooms does not generally hurt the mycelium of the fungus**. We do still recommend leaving some mushrooms behind, and not picking perennial mushrooms, like brackets and conks.

Who to contact

If you think you've found this mushroom, and you're not sure about any of the above, such as how to report the find, whether you can collect it, or what to do with it once you have collected it, please contact us!

WestCoast_Rare@fundis.org

Habitat

Look for the Rosy Snowbank Waxy Cap in **hemlock forests** next to **melting snow** up and down the West Coast. Snow packs have been taken for granted in the past, but the 2020-21 winter has shown that winter snowfall can be very scant. In the 1970's this species could still be found in August - we wonder whether that is still possible, or whether by that time, all the snow under the hemlocks has melted.

Photo by Nicholas A. Tonelli

More information

Osmundson T. 2016. Hygrophorus goetzei. The Global Fungal Red List Initiative. http://iucn.ekoo.se/iucn/species_view/534690/

Siegel N, Vellinga EC, Schwarz C, Castellano MA, Ikeda D. 2018. *A field guide to the rare fungi of California's National Forests. Bookmobile*: pg. 76-77. Accessible at:
mykoweb.com/CAF/PDF/Rare_Fungi_of_CA_National_Forests.pdf

iNaturalist (57 obs. in Western North America):
].inaturalist.org/taxa/901748-Hygrophorus-goetzei

Mushroom Observer (1 obs. in Western North America):
mushroomobserver.org/name/show_name/43428

The Rosy Snowbank Waxy Cap

Hygrophorus goetzei

Photo by Irene Foo

IUCN Red List: ***NEAR THREATENED***

Snowbank species are mushrooms that come up when the snow in the mountains is melting. They are not uncommon - *yet* - but we suspect that the habitat for these snowbank species is shrinking rapidly, leaving them **stranded on isolated mountain tops**, instead of inhabiting a wide connected area throughout the western mountains.

Bubblegum pink caps peeking out of the **snow**!

FUNGAL DIVERSITY SURVEY

This pamphlet prepared by:
Tiffany Theden, Else C. Vellinga, Alex Mayberry & Roo Vandegrift

Photo by Warren Cardimona

Description

The **pink dome-shaped cap** is the first thing that stands out in this species. As in most wax caps, the **cap is smooth and a bit slimy when wet**. The **pink can fade** when the mushroom gets older, but the tell-tale distant **pale pink gills** under the cap remain like that. These are curved downwards and **run down on the stem**. The stem itself is pale pink as well. The whole mushroom stands around 2.5 inches tall with a 1–2 inch wide cap.

What else could it be?

There is really only one pink-capped snow bank species, but when the pink has faded it might look a bit like another spring fruiting wax cap species, ***H. vernalis***, which has more **orange-brown tinges** in the cap and a **white stem**.

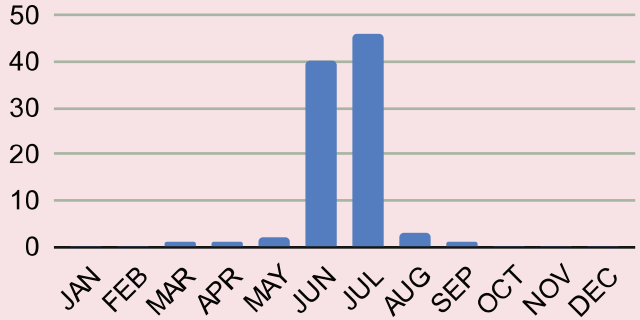
When you are looking out for this species, you might come across some other snow bank species, such as *Pholiota nubigena* that has a smell that combines **bubble-gum and turpentine**; it grows on wood.

Make records of all the others too! Their habitat is also at risk.

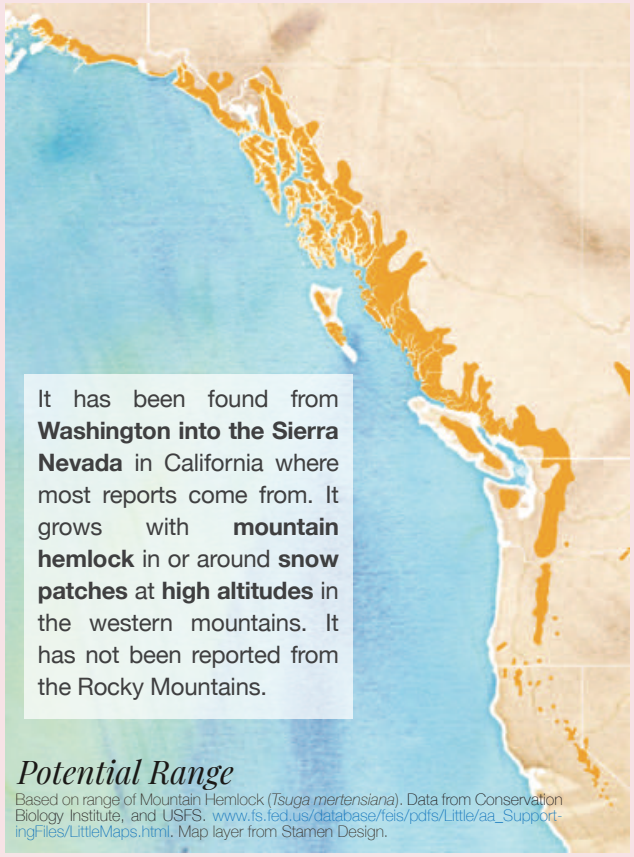
CAUTION: Never eat wild mushrooms without a confident identification! Contact Poison Control if you think you have eaten a poisonous mushroom: 1-800-222-1222

When & Where?

Most often found from **mid June to mid July**, but some late finds in August and rarely, in September..



Data from iNaturalist & Mushroom Observer



This species has been proposed and assessed for the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**, *but has not yet been accepted and published.*