ASTERACEAE (COMPOSITAE)
Balsamorhiza sagittata (Pursh) Nutt.
Basa

arrowleaf balsamroot

FORM: Deciduous, perennial forb, 20-80cm (8-32in) tall, from a long woody taproot.

LEAVES: Large, long petiolate, silvery-green, arrowhead-shaped leaves covered with whitish feltlike hair; all leaves basal, up to 30cm (12in) long; no aerial leaf-bearing stems.

FLOWERS: Showy, yellow, solitary sunflower head, 5-8cm (2-3in) in diameter; April-July.

FRUIT: Glabrous achenes.

ENEMIES: Fire: resistant, regeneration from caudex to preburn levels within 2-5 years.

NOTES: Indians named it "pash"; young stalks, roots and seeds were used for food.