

TREES OF MT. BALDY VISITOR CENTER

white fir, *Abies concolor*

Mule deer generally eat small amounts of white fir during the spring, fall, and winter, and sometimes larger amounts during the summer. Mule deer are especially fond of succulent, new white fir growth in the spring. During the winter, mice feed on the leaders of small white firs near snow level. In the spring, they feed on seedlings, sometimes destroying a large proportion of the current year's seedlings. White fir seeds are eaten by several species of small mammals and birds including chipmunks and mice, chickadees, crossbills, and Clark's nutcracker.

Hollowed-out trunks of old white fir trees, dead or alive, are denning sites for mammals ranging from weasels to black bears. Birds use mature white fir trees and snags for foraging, roosting, nesting and/or breeding

White fir is used for Christmas trees. Native Americans used the needles for tea.

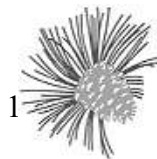
bigleaf maple, *Acer macrophyllum*

The seeds, buds, and flowers of bigleaf maple provide food for numerous birds and mammals including deer, mice, woodrats, squirrels, chipmunks, finches, and grosbeaks. Squirrels and chipmunks eat the seeds, frequently caching them after removing the hull and wing. Seeds on the ground and young seedlings are eaten by rodents. Rodents eat the roots or pull entire seedlings into burrows. Numerous birds use maple leaves and seed stalks for nest building.

Native Americans used the bark for making rope and carved bowls, utensils, and canoe paddles from the wood. Although not produced commercially, maple syrup can be made from the sap of bigleaf maple. It takes about 35 gallons of sap to produce 1 gallon of syrup. The wood is used primarily for making veneer for furniture, but may also be used for making musical instruments, interior paneling, and other products.

white alder, *Alnus rhombifolia*

Game animals eat white alder twigs, leaves, and buds to a small degree. Alder bark is used by beavers for food and also for building dams and lodges. Alder seeds are eaten by siskins and goldfinches. Native Americans used this alder to make a red dye for their baskets and a tea to induce perspiration during their sweat lodge ceremonies. White alder is commonly used for firewood.



incense-cedar, *Calocedrus decurrens*

Incense-cedar wood is resistant to decay, making it very desirable for exterior use. This wood is used as mud sills, window sashes, sheathing under stucco or brick veneer construction, greenhouse benches, fencing, poles, and trellises. It is also widely used for exterior and interior siding. Much of the top quality incense-cedar is used in the manufacture of pencils.

It is browsed moderately by mule deer. Its seeds are eaten by small mammals but are not a preferred food of chipmunks. The presence of oils in the seeds may make them unpalatable.

Coulter pine, *Pinus coulteri*

Female white-headed woodpeckers forage for insects almost exclusively on lower main trunks of Coulter pine, while male white-headed woodpeckers extensively use the cones. The seeds are also a dependable year-round food source for western gray squirrels.

Coulter pine cones are used for decoration and crafts. Seeds were eaten by Native Americans.

Jeffrey pine, *Pinus jeffreyi*

Seeds are eaten by the Clark's nutcracker and other birds. Many small mammals such as mice, chipmunks, squirrels, and voles eat the stems and roots of young Jeffrey pine. During harsh winters or drought, large mammals such as elk and deer will browse on the needles and bark. Young Jeffrey pine seedlings provide ground shelter for small birds and mammals. Older stands serve as windbreaks for larger mammals. Insect-killed trees provide snags and fallen logs which become habitat or nesting birds and cavity dwellers.

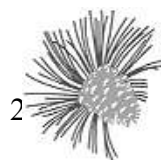
Jeffrey pine pitch was distilled for turpentine early in the century, however, the terpens were found to contain high amounts of the explosive chemical heptane. Lumber is used for molding, mill work, cabinets, doors, and windows.

gray pine, *Pinus sabiniana*

Gray pine wood is used for making railroad ties, box shoo, pallet stock, and chips. Gray pine seeds are an important diet item for various birds and rodents. Scrub jay, acorn woodpecker, and California gray squirrel are major seed consumers. Gray pine seeds were important in the diet of California Indians.

big-cone spruce, *Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*

Big-cone spruce stands provide habitat for deer, black bear, and various small animals. These trees provide preferred spring habitat for black bear in the mountains. The seeds are eaten by various rodents and birds.



canyon live oak, *Quercus chrysolepis*

Large oaks serve as perching, nesting, resting, or foraging sites for numerous species of birds and provide shade and cover for both large and small mammals. Small oaks provide cover and readily available browse. Canyon live oak woodlands serve as excellent mountain lion habitat because of the large number of deer frequenting these areas.

Canyon live oak is a consistent acorn producer which enhances its value to wildlife species which rely on mast. Many small birds and mammals, including jays and woodpeckers, cache acorns from various California oaks. Acorns of canyon live oak are important dietary components of many birds including acorn woodpecker, band-tailed pigeon, scrub jay, Steller's jay and common crow. Many mammals such as deer, mice, jackrabbit, brush mouse, western gray squirrel, pocket gophers, and dusky-footed woodrat, also consume canyon live oak acorns. Prior to its extinction, the California grizzly fed extensively on the acorns of live oaks. Canyon live oak often provides excellent insect foraging sites for many small birds including the Nuttall's woodpecker, acorn woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, oak titmouse, and northern oriole.

During the era of westward expansion, settlers used the wood of canyon live oak for many purposes. The wood is particularly hard, hence the origin of the common names "rock oak" or "maul oak." Its hardness made it particularly well-suited for axles, tool handles, mauls, wagon tongues, plow beams, ship frames, and wheels. Wedges made from this oak were used to split redwood into railroad ties. Many California oaks were used locally for mine timbers or fenceposts. Oak wood was also used to make charcoal.

Canyon live oak is one of the most important California hardwoods. The wood is hard, stiff, and strong. It can be used to make furniture, pallets, and attractive multi-colored paneling or veneer. It is a valuable firewood species in many parts of California.

Native Americans traditionally used the acorns of canyon live oak to make mush or flour which was baked into cakes after the bitter tannins were removed.

blue elderberry, *Sambucus mexicana*

Elderberry provides valuable cover, perching, and nesting sites; its fruit provides food for many species of birds including bluebirds, warbling vireo, western tanager, house finch, green-tailed towhee, woodpeckers, grosbeaks, Townsend solitaire, quail, and hummingbirds who visit flowers for nectar. It also provides cover and food for other wildlife including rabbits, squirrels, foxes, chipmunks, ground squirrels, woodrats, mice, and ring-tailed cats in California riparian zones. Mule deer also show seasonal preferences for blue elderberry.

The fruit of blue elderberry is frequently gathered for wine, jellies, candy, pies, and sauces and it is cultivated commercially in Oregon. Native Americans gathered the fruit to cook, dry, or to eat raw. They used a liquid made from the flowers and leaves for medicinal purposes. In the spring the young vegetative sprouts can be cooked and eaten. Caution should be used in eating elderberries since they contain a bitter alkaloid. A dye can be made from the bark and an insecticide from the dried leaves of elderberry. The name *Sambucus* is derived from the Greek *sambuca* which was a stringed instrument supposed to be made from elder wood. The hollow stems have been fashioned into flutes and blowguns. The wood is hard and has been used for combs, spindles, and pegs

giant sequoia, *Sequoiadendron giganteum*

A variety of foliage- and air-feeding birds occupy the upper canopy, while sapsuckers feed through the thin bark. Cavity-nesters that use giant sequoia for nesting include white-headed woodpeckers and flickers, and an occasional perching bird such as a nuthatch. Reports of chipmunks using giant sequoia sawdust for cleansing baths have been noted.

Giant sequoia was cut commercially from the 1850's up to the mid-1950's. It is decay-resistant and used as dimensional lumber, veneer, and plywood. The most historically popular items milled from giant sequoia were fenceposts, grape stakes, shingles, novelties, patio furniture, and pencils. It is also used for Christmas trees.

redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*

Redwood forests provide habitat for variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Remnant old-growth redwood stands provide habitat for the federally threatened spotted owl and the California-endangered marbled murrelet.

In settlement times fire scar cavities at the base of larger redwood boles were used as goose pens; hence the name "goosepens" has been used to denote fire scar cavities. Native Americans used redwood in the construction of canoes and as grave markers.

Redwood is one of California's most valuable timber species. The wood is soft, weak, easily split, and very resistant to decay. The clear wood is used for dimension stock and shingles. Redwood burls are used in the production of table tops, veneers, and turned goods.

California bay, *Umbellularia californica*

The seeds are eaten by birds, rodents, and domestic and wild pigs. Pigs also consume the roots.

Native Americans made tea from the root bark of California bay and used the leaves for control of biting insects. The leaves were also used medicinally by Native Americans and pioneers for treatment of headache and rheumatism. California bay leaves are marketed as a food seasoning. California bay wood is used for cabinets, furniture, interior trim, paneling, veneer, gunstocks, and turned woodenware. Burls, marketed as myrtlewood, are used for making novelty items and wood carvings.

All material from Fire Effects Information System, [Online]. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire Sciences Laboratory Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis> [2005, August 12]

