

Whiskeytown

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National
Recreation Area



Common Trees of Whiskeytown



Grey Pine
Pinus sabiniana



A spreading gray-green pine with rounded top and forked, twisted trunk, this tree is commonly found on hot, chaparral-covered slopes at lower elevations. Needles are in bundles of 3, and may be 8-12 inches long. Remarkably large heavy cones have hooked scales containing edible nuts that were a primary source of food for California Native Americans.

Ponderosa Pine
Pinus ponderosa

The Ponderosa is a tall tree, up to 140 feet, tends to grow in stands and has plated reddish-orange bark. Needles are in bundles of 3, dark-green, and 5-10 inches long. Egg-shaped cones, 3-5 inches long, have prickles pointed outward.



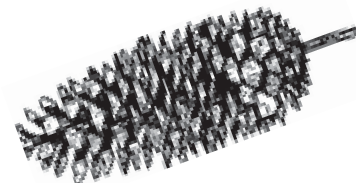
Knobcone Pine
Pinus attenuata



A common pine at lower elevations around Whiskeytown, preferring hot rocky sites, this tree has a broad cone-shaped top and dull brown bark. Needles are in bundles of 3, light green, often twisted, and 3-7 inches long. Closed-scale cones are firmly attached to branches and trunk. This tree does not drop its cones; the cones open to disperse their seeds when heated by fire.

Sugar Pine
Pinus lambertiana

This is the tallest (over 200 feet) American pine, distinguished by long cones that may be 12-18 inches in length and weigh up to 4 lbs. Needles are in bundles of 5, sharp pointed, blue-green and 2-4 inches long.



Douglas Fir
Pseudotsuga menziesii



This is a large tree with a broad, pointed cone-shaped top. Flattened needles, dark yellow-green in color, attached individually around the twigs. Reddish-brown cones are cylindrical, 3-4 inches long, with 3-pointed bracts between scales. Needles are high in vitamin C and can be used to make tea.

Incense Cedar
Calocedrus decurrens

A member of the cypress family, this tree grows up to 110 feet tall with a cone-shaped top, frond-like branches and fragrant wood. Ever-green leaves are scale-like and yellow-green in color. Small yellowish-brown cones resemble a duck's bill when closed, and a goose in flight when open.



California Black Oak
Quercus kelloggii

Dark green deciduous leaves are deeply lobed and each lobe has a prickly tip. The leaves turn a brilliant yellow in the fall. The bark is black with ridges. Chestnut-brown acorns are 1-2 inches long with a cap that covers half of the nut. The acorns were a staple of the California Native American diet. Nuts were gathered, leached in water to remove the tannic acid, ground to a power, then used to make soup and mush.



Canyon Live Oak
Quercus chrysolepis



This oak keeps its thick leathery leaves year round and has a short trunk and spreading top. Leaves are simple with smooth or toothed edges (or both), and are leathery, yellow-green with yellowish fuzz underneath. Acorns are oblong, 1/2 - 2 inches long with a cap covered in a golden "fuzz". The closely related interior live oak is also found in this area.

Valley Oak
Quercus lobata

This is the largest of the western oaks, growing 80-100 feet tall with a diameter of 30-40 inches or more. The deciduous leaves are dark green and deeply lobed with tiny hairs. The bark is gray with narrow vertical blocks of scaly plates. Shiny chestnut-brown acorns are long and slender and provide food for many kinds of wildlife.



Blue Oak
Quercus douglasii



Often found with the grey pine on chaparral covered foothills, the blue oak is usually 30-40 feet tall with a dome-like top and ashy-gray bark. Leaves are simple with rounded lobed edges, blue-green color, and 1 1/2 - 2 inches long. Acorns are chestnut-brown and variable in form.

Big Leaf Maple
Acer macrophyllum

This broad-crowned shade tree has the largest leaf of any tree in the area. The five-lobed leaf, which may be up to a foot across, turns bright yellow in the fall. The seeds are encased in a double-winged samara that "helicopters" down to the forest floor. The presence of this tree often indicates that there is a high water table in the area. Maple sugar can be obtained from the sap.



Pacific Dogwood
Cornus nutallii



In early summer the greenish-white 4-6 petaled "star" of the dogwood blossom dots the understory. The actual flowers are located at the center of the star in a compact cluster. The leaves are veined with a point at the tip and turn a brilliant crimson in the fall. The bark is gray to black and has the appearance of an alligator's hide.

California Buckeye
Aesculus California

This is a small tree with a short trunk, often enlarged at the base, with a broad rounded crown of crooked branches. The leaves are palmately compound with 5 leaflets. They turn brown and shed in late summer. Beautiful spikes of white flowers bloom in late spring and early summer. The fruit is pear-shaped and smooth, maturing in late summer and is usually one large, rounded, shiny brown, poisonous seed.

California Native Americans would throw the seeds into pools of water to stun fish, which then rose to the surface and were easily caught.



White Alder
Alnus rhombifolia



This water-loving tree is 40-80 feet tall with an open top and grayish-brown scaly bark. It is showy in winter with long golden-colored male catkins hanging from leafless twigs. Leaves are simple with finely serrated edges. Seeds are nutlets that are enclosed in a small woody cone 1 1/2 inch long.

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