



Photo: Bruno Karklis



Pine grass. Source: Wikipedia Commons

# Huckleberry

## Eaten by:

- Bears
- Birds
- Squirrels
- Moose

## Facts:

- Many traditional uses by Native American tribes. Historically, burning of Thinleaf huckleberry patches was a regular activity in autumn after berry harvest.
- Important food source for many species.
- Foliage is of low flammability, allowing for survival after low severity fires. Higher severity fires may cause "top-kill," but plants can re-sprout from the root bulb.



# Native Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes

## Eaten by:

- Numerous mammals

## Facts:

- Fire-adapted plants include elk sedge and pine grass.
- How to tell grasses, sedges, and rushes apart by their stems: grasses are hollow, rushes roll smoothly between your fingers (circular stems), and sedges are blade-shaped or angular.
- Before livestock heavily grazed these landscapes, native grasses carried low-intensity wildfires across dry forests, clearing underbrush and small trees.





Source: Natural Resources Canada



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# Mountain Pine Beetle

## Eats:

- Tree wood

## Eaten by:

- Birds

## Facts:

- These insects burrow into trees in order to eat the tree's sapwood and lay eggs. After a wildfire, beetles deposit millions of eggs in dead and dying trees.
- Normally, these beetles are only able to kill drought-stressed or weaker trees. However, milder winters have allowed these beetles to reproduce more quickly, wiping out entire drought-stressed forests.



# Northern Flying Squirrel

## Eats:

- Nuts
- Berries
- Insects
- Fungi

## Eaten by:

- Lynx, Spotted owls and other large birds, American marten, Red fox, and domestic cats.

## Facts:

- Glide from tree to tree using flaps between their legs.
- Depend on shelters built by woodpeckers in dead trees.





Photo: Andy Brunner



Source: MO Dept. of Conservation

# Snowshoe Hare

## Eats:

- Tree saplings
- Berries

## Eaten by:

- Carnivores

## Facts:

- Mammals thrive on new vegetation after fire and seek shelter under fallen logs
- Snowshoe hare change color from brown in the summer to white in the winter. As snowpack melts earlier in the season, some snowshoe hare are now mismatched with their environment and face greater risk of predation.



# Coyote

## Eats:

- Small mammals, birds, insects, and fruit.

## Eaten By:

- Hawks and eagles hunt pups.

## Facts:

- People pose the greatest risk to coyotes.





Source: Wikipedia Commons



Source: Wikipedia Commons

# White Fir

## Eaten by:

- Saplings are browsed by deer and snowshoe hare.

## Facts:

- This shade-tolerant tree is more susceptible to fire than ponderosa pines.
- Significantly alters fire behavior by filling in gaps in the forest canopy.
- Blue-green needles curve outward and upward on branches and, when crushed, emit a lemon scent.



# Ninebark

## Eaten by:

- Good nectar source for bees, butterflies and beetles.
- Seeds are eaten by birds.

## Facts:

- Provides cover for small animals seeking shelter from predators.
- Ninebarks are so called because it was believed there are nine layers (or nine strips) of peeling bark on the stems.
- It is found along streams, in wet meadows.
- Its flowers are mostly pollinated by native bees but may also be visited by butterflies, while its tall, arching branches and foliage provide cover.
- Ninebark sprouts from its roots after wildfire.





Source: Flickr



Source: USFS

# Wildflowers

## Eaten by:

- Deer
- Snowshoe hare

## Facts:

- Wildflowers are pollinated by more than just bees—bats, hummingbirds, and even flies also pollinate flowers.
- Certain species of wildflowers, such as fireweed, are adapted to grow quickly in nutrient rich soils after wildfire.
- Blooming annuals and perennials attract bug-eating birds.



# Ponderosa Pine

## Eaten by:

- Saplings are browsed by deer and snowshoe hare.

## Facts:

- Ponderosa pines grow from long "tap roots" which provide secure anchors the tree uses to access soil moisture deep underground.
- Ponderosa pines are intolerant of shade from other trees, and are most successful in open sunlight.
- Mature trees have very thick bark and are well adapted to the fast-moving fires that sweep through stands and burn grasses, pine needles, and low shrubs. Natural wildfires like this may naturally reoccur every five to 40 years at any single location—a frequency that significantly reduces the amount of fuel like tree branches, fallen trees and needle litter on the forest floor.





Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Photo: Hillary Halliwell

# Black-backed Woodpecker

## Eats:

- Bees
- Berries
- Beetles

## Facts:

- Flock to burned trees to feast on insect species like the mountain pine beetle.
- Use their specialized heads to excavate cavities in dead trees to raise their chicks. These cavities are also used by squirrels and other birds once the cavities are abandoned.



# Black-notched Bumble Bee

## Eats:

- Pollen from flowering species (berries, flowers, willows, etc.)

## Eaten by:

- Bears
- Birds

## Function:

- Irreplaceable pollinator

