Stop 7: Greenleaf Manzanita (Arctostaphylos patula)

This evergreen shrub is common to the more arid parts of the Pacific Northwest. The reddish bark and small, oval leaves are helpful for identifying this unique plant. Greenleaf Manzanita can hinder the regeneration of trees after clearcuts by shading out seedlings. The green berries are an important source of food for wildlife.

Stop 8: Pine Drops (Pterospora andromedea)

This unmistakable plant is one of the most unique forms of plantlife in the Deschutes National Forest. Unlike most plants, Pine Drops do not have green leaves and don't use chlorophyll to produce energy. Instead, this plant lives off of dead and decaying organic material from a well developed layer of forest litter, much like a fungus.

Thanks for visiting
Newberry National Volcanic Monument!

Please help us to recycle by returning this guide to the box at either end of the trail.

Do you want to know more about the ecology and plant life of Deschutes National Forest?

Deschutes National Forest Information
http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/centraloregon

Discover Your Northwest
http://www.discovernw.org

U.S. Forest Service Wildflower Viewing
http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/viewing/index.php

Native Plant Society of Oregon
http://www.npsoregon.org

Oregon Flora Project
http://www.oregonflora.org

Published for
Newberry National Volcanic Monument
by
Discover Your Forest/Discover Your Northwest
in cooperation with
Deschutes National Forest

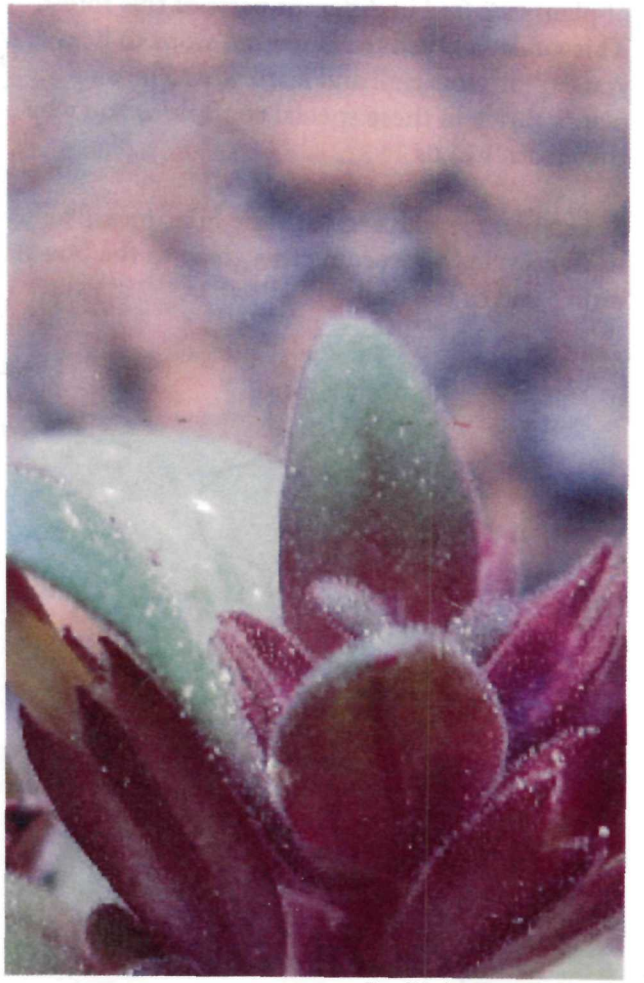
Newberry
National Volcanic
Monument

DISCOVER YOUR NORTHWEST

FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Trail of the WHISPERING PINES

Interpretive Botanical Trail



Dwarf Monkey Flower (*Mimulus nanus*)

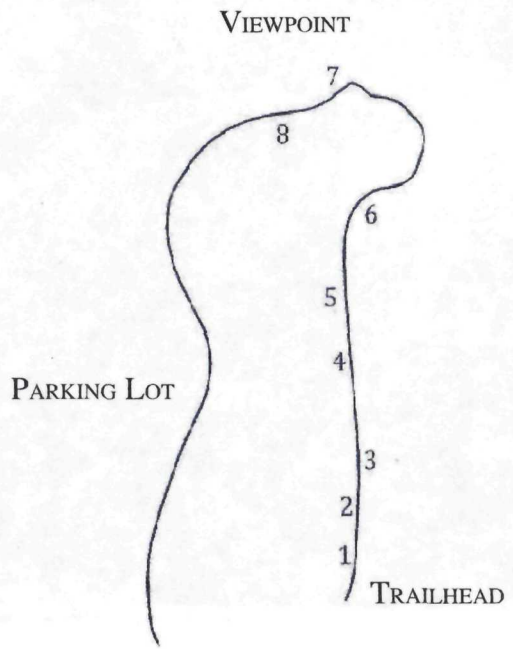
Newberry National Volcanic Monument
Deschutes National Forest

Adapting to Disturbance in the High Desert

The Deschutes National Forest is a combination of 'high desert' landscape with mixed pine forests. When something happens in the forest, plants respond by adapting to their surroundings.

Fire, drought, climate change, volcanic activity and human impact all have an affect on the types of plants we find in different parts of this forest. This guide is keyed to numbered stops to help you explore this trail and learn what kinds of plants thrive in these special conditions and why they matter to us.

When you are finished with the hike, please help us to recycle by returning this guide to the box at either end of the trail.



Trail of the Whispering Pines
Approximate distance: 1/3 mile

1: Ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa)

This pine is a highly valued tree found at intermediate altitudes east of the Cascade Mountains. It is characterized by its bundles of 3 needles, "jigsaw puzzle" bark and a large, egg-shaped cone. This species of pine is specially adapated to fire, with extra thick bark, open stands and deep root systems. Most of the Ponderosa pines at this site were planted by the Forest Service in 1952.

2: Snowbrush (Ceanothus velutinus)

Also known as Sticky Laurel or Mountain Balm, this plant can be recognized by its sweet smelling fragrance and shiny, sticky leaves. This common plant relies on the heat of forest fires to cause its seed pods to rupture, releasing the seeds. Snowbrush seeds can lie dormant for 200 years or more, waiting for another forest fire before germinating. This plant can be an aggressive pioneer in a newly burned forest, and helps to fix nitrogen from the air into forms used by plants.

3: Wax Currant (Ribes cereum)

The Wax Currant is characterized by its pinkish-white flowers, red berries and waxy leaves. These plants typically inhabit forest edges at warm, dry sites. At this site, the forest meets the lava flow and provides conditions that are suitable for currants. The Wax Currant is an important food source for wildlife that live in and around the lava flow.

4: Western Serviceberry (Amelanchier alnifolia)

This member of the rose family is usually found in open forestlands with moist conditions. The lava on the forest edge here holds enough moisture underground to allow a plant like this to grow in the high desert. Serviceberries are a valuable source of multiple vitamins and minerals. This "superfruit" is an important food source for bear, deer, elk and other wildlife.

5: Lodgepole pine (Pinus contorta)

The Lodgepole pine is a common tree in the western U.S. and has the greatest range of altitude and latitudes for pines in North America. Like Snowbrush, Lodgepole pines also rely on fire to help spread their seeds. These trees produce "serotinous" cones that contain a resin that will only melt at high temperatures. Lodgepole pine is named for its use by native Americans as a pole for tipis and other structures.

6: Bitterbrush (Purshia tridentata)

This plant is often confused with sagebrush, but lacks the strong aroma. Bitterbrush is often found at the edge of forests on warm, dry sites. Bitterbrush is an important source of food during the winter for deer, antelope and elk. Bitterbrush is very sensitive to fire, and is difficult to regenerate.

Continued on back...