**Trees**

**Red alder**
Alnus rubra
Up to 75 feet, deciduous, open and damp habitats.
**Look for:** Scalloped leaves, catkins, white gray bark.

**Douglas-fir**
Pseudotsuga menziesii
Over 250 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Cones (pictured), bottle brush sprays of soft needles.

**Grand fir**
Abies grandis
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Spray of flat needles with notched tips, upper needle surface green.

**Sitka spruce**
Picea sitchensis
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Cones (pictured), short stiff and sharp needles.

**Western hemlock**
Tsuga heterophylla
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Cones (pictured), soft needles, droopy branches.

**Western red cedar**
Thuja plicata
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, conifours forests.
**Look for:** Small, dime sized cones, flat sprays of leaves.

**Sitka willow**
Salix sitchensis
Up to 75 feet, deciduous, open and damp habitats.
**Look for:** Soft white velvet on the underside of the leaves.

**Tanoak**
Notholithocarpus densiflorus
Up to 100 feet, evergreen, all forest habitats.
**Look for:** Acorns with cup-like cap, lower surface of leaves wooly.

**Big leaf maple**
Acer macrophyllum
Up to 75 feet, deciduous, open and damp habitats.
**Look for:** Glossy dissected leaves, scaly dark brown bark.

**Sitka spruce**
Picea sitchensis
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Cones (pictured), short stiff and sharp needles.

**Western hemlock**
Tsuga heterophylla
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Cones (pictured), soft needles, droopy branches.

**Redwood**
Sequoia sempervirens
Over 300 feet, evergreen, dominant of mature forests.
**Look for:** Soft brown-red bark, flat needles.

**Sitka spruce**
Picea sitchensis
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Cones (pictured), short stiff and sharp needles.

**Western red cedar**
Thuja plicata
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, conifours forests.
**Look for:** Small, dime sized cones, flat sprays of leaves.

**Headwaters Flora History**

Take a stroll along the Elk River Trail through a deciduous riparian forest community featuring red alder, big leaf maple, and Sitka willow. As the trail departs from the rivers' edge, view tall second and third growth redwood forest reaching for the sky, while dense understory shrubs, ferns and herbs grow in the dappled light below.

Headwaters Forest Reserve is home to approximately 3,000 acres of old-growth redwood forest, a remaining refuge for some of the most rare, majestic forest plants in the world. This ancient forest has grown here for millions of years. Today, it includes towering redwoods over 2,000 years old, and reaching heights over 300 feet.

For Further Information:
Bureau of Land Management
Arcata Field Office
1695 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521
707-825-2300
www.blm.gov/crld

**Common Plants**

**Red alder**
Alnus rubra
Up to 75 feet, deciduous, open and damp habitats.
**Look for:** Scalloped leaves, catkins, white gray bark.

**Douglas-fir**
Pseudotsuga menziesii
Over 250 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Cones (pictured), bottle brush sprays of soft needles.

**Grand fir**
Abies grandis
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Spray of flat needles with notched tips, upper needle surface green.

**Sitka spruce**
Picea sitchensis
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Cones (pictured), short stiff and sharp needles.

**Western hemlock**
Tsuga heterophylla
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Cones (pictured), soft needles, droopy branches.

**Western red cedar**
Thuja plicata
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, conifours forests.
**Look for:** Small, dime sized cones, flat sprays of leaves.

**Sitka willow**
Salix sitchensis
Up to 75 feet, deciduous, open and damp habitats.
**Look for:** Soft white velvet on the underside of the leaves.

**Tanoak**
Notholithocarpus densiflorus
Up to 100 feet, evergreen, all forest habitats.
**Look for:** Acorns with cup-like cap, lower surface of leaves wooly.

**Big leaf maple**
Acer macrophyllum
Up to 75 feet, deciduous, open and damp habitats.
**Look for:** Glossy dissected leaves, scaly dark brown bark.

**Sitka spruce**
Picea sitchensis
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Cones (pictured), short stiff and sharp needles.

**Western hemlock**
Tsuga heterophylla
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Cones (pictured), soft needles, droopy branches.

**Redwood**
Sequoia sempervirens
Over 300 feet, evergreen, dominant of mature forests.
**Look for:** Soft brown-red bark, flat needles.

**Sitka spruce**
Picea sitchensis
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, coniferous forests.
**Look for:** Cones (pictured), short stiff and sharp needles.

**Western red cedar**
Thuja plicata
Up to 200 feet, evergreen, conifours forests.
**Look for:** Small, dime sized cones, flat sprays of leaves.

**Common Plants**
Deer fern
*Blechnum spicant*
Up to 1 foot, evergreen, damp habitats.
**Look for:** Smaller, stiffer fronds, lower to the ground.

Fivefingered fern
*Adiantum aleuticum*
Up to 1 foot, evergreen, found on damp banks.
**Look for:** Smaller, drooping fronds, thin leaves.

Lady fern
*Athyrium filix-femina*
Up to 8 feet, dies back in the fall, common in all habitats.
**Look for:** Single frond on tall stalks.

Giant horsetail
*Equisetum telmateia*
Up to 3 to 5 feet, evergreen, open and damp habitats.
**Look for:** Unique stem and leaf appearance.

**Ferns**

Evergreen huckleberry
*Vaccinium ovatum*
Up to 10 feet, evergreen.
**Look for:** Fingertip sized leaves, dark blue-black berries.

Red huckleberry
*Vaccinium parvifolium*
Up to 10 feet, evergreen, open and forest habitats.
**Look for:** Alternative leaves, red-orange berries.

Cascara
*Frangula purshiana*
Up to 36 feet, deciduous, open and damp habitats.
**Look for:** Long straight stems, black berries, purplish stems.

Blood currant
*Ribes sanguineum*
Up to 12 feet, deciduous, open and damp habitats.
**Look for:** Five lobed leaves, hanging pink flowers, bluish black berries in late summer.

Salal
*Gaultheria shallon*
Up to 3 feet, evergreen, open to forest habitats.
**Look for:** White, urn shaped flowers, leathery green leaves, purple berries.

Stinging nettle
*Urtica dioica*
Up to 8 feet, dies back in the fall, common in all habitats.
**Look for:** Single frond on tall stalks.

**Shrubs and Herbs**

California blackberry
*Rubus ursinus*
Up to 10 feet, evergreen, open and disturbed habitats.
**Look for:** Brambles with many slender and straight prickles on stems, fingertip sized, black berries.

Himalayan blackberry
*Rubus armeniacus*
Up to 10 feet, evergreen. Open and disturbed habitats, invasive and not native.
**Look for:** Robust stems and wide based, curved prickles.

Stinging nettle
*Urtica dioica*
Up to 8 feet, dies back in the fall, common in all habitats.
**Look for:** Single frond on tall stalks.

**Ferns**

Fivefingered fern
*Adiantum aleuticum*
Up to 1 foot, evergreen, found on damp banks.
**Look for:** Smaller, drooping fronds, thin leaves.

Lady fern
*Athyrium filix-femina*
Up to 8 feet, dies back in the fall, common in all habitats.
**Look for:** Single frond on tall stalks.

Giant horsetail
*Equisetum telmateia*
Up to 3 to 5 feet, evergreen, open and damp habitats.
**Look for:** Unique stem and leaf appearance.

**Ferns**

Evergreen huckleberry
*Vaccinium ovatum*
Up to 10 feet, evergreen.
**Look for:** Fingertip sized leaves, dark blue-black berries.

Red huckleberry
*Vaccinium parvifolium*
Up to 10 feet, evergreen, open and forest habitats.
**Look for:** Alternative leaves, red-orange berries.

Cascara
*Frangula purshiana*
Up to 36 feet, deciduous, open and damp habitats.
**Look for:** Long straight stems, black berries, purplish stems.

Blood currant
*Ribes sanguineum*
Up to 12 feet, deciduous, open and damp habitats.
**Look for:** Five lobed leaves, hanging pink flowers, bluish black berries in late summer.

Salal
*Gaultheria shallon*
Up to 3 feet, evergreen, open to forest habitats.
**Look for:** White, urn shaped flowers, leathery green leaves, purple berries.

Stinging nettle
*Urtica dioica*
Up to 8 feet, dies back in the fall, common in all habitats.
**Look for:** Single frond on tall stalks.

**Shrubs and Herbs**

California blackberry
*Rubus ursinus*
Up to 10 feet, evergreen, open and disturbed habitats.
**Look for:** Brambles with many slender and straight prickles on stems, fingertip sized, black berries.

Himalayan blackberry
*Rubus armeniacus*
Up to 10 feet, evergreen. Open and disturbed habitats, invasive and not native.
**Look for:** Robust stems and wide based, curved prickles.