

Tree-united

How many Whistler trees can you I.D

Pick a trail and discover how many different tree species you can find.
Use these helpful hints to match the trees to their needles, bark and cones.



Western red cedar

Hint: The males cones are roughly the size of a fingernail. Instead of needles look for scales. Bark looks like you can strip it off.



Douglas fir

Hint: The cones have bracts that look like little mice are hiding inside. Needles are flat and all the same length. Bark is very thick and looks chunky.



The Mouse, Douglas fir and the Great Forest Fire



A long time ago, there was a great forest fire burning through the forest. Little Mouse ran as fast as he could away from the hot fire but he knew he could not outrace the fast-moving flames. He began to run from tree to tree asking them if they could save him. Nobody could help him until finally, he came to a great old Douglas fir tree, with its thick furrowed bark. "Help, help, Douglas fir! Can you help me escape this fire?" And Douglas fir replied, "Yes, I think that my thick bark will protect me from the heat of these flames. I may be able to survive this great fire. Climb to the top of my branches and climb under the scales of my cone for extra protection." So, Little Mouse did as he was told, and climbed way up into Douglas fir tree and hid under the scales of the Douglas fir cones. Many other little mice followed him and did the same. And the Douglas fir tree was right, its thick bark protected them from the flames of the fire, and the fire passed them by. To this day, if you look under the scales of the Douglas fir cone you can still see little mice hiding under the scales of the cones.

