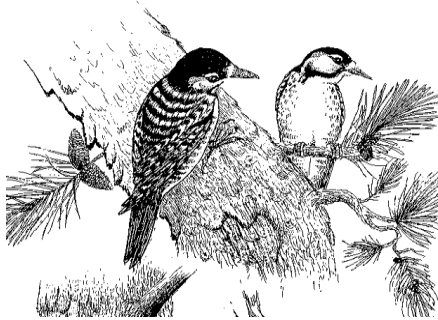


## Woodpecker Loop Trail

Five species of woodpeckers use one or more of the plant communities along this trail.

These woodpeckers are used as examples to illustrate the relationship between plant communities and wildlife. They show how some species depend on a single plant community while other species thrive in many communities.

Look for Woodpeckers and other wildlife species illustrated for each habitat. You are most likely to see the animals in their listed habitat although they will go into other habitats from time to time.



### When to Visit?

You will not see, hear, or even observe signs of all of the wildlife species that use these plant communities because some will be quiet, some will be hiding, and others occur seasonally. We suggest that you return to this trail at different times of the day and year to increase your chances of seeing all of the wildlife species.

The plant communities will look quite different in each season. This leaflet introduces the plant communities and associated wildlife in the same order you will first view them along the trail. So, you can enjoy Woodpecker Loop during any season.

## Young Oak Forest

Small Oregon White oaks dominate a thicket of poison oak, wild rose, snowberry, Himalayan blackberry, and other shrubs. Lichens hang from the trees. The former land owner repeatedly burned this area until the 1930s to produce grass for cattle grazing. Young oaks emerged after burning stopped.

### Animals You Might See

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Scrub Jay, Rufous-sided Towhee, Bewick's Wren, Giant Pocket Gopher, Western Gray Squirrel

### Species Highlight:

#### Acorn Woodpecker

Identification: Clown-like pattern of black, white and red on head.

Habitat Needs: As the name implies, acorn woodpeckers prefer oak woodlands. They excavate nest holes in oaks, pines and other tree species.

Special Habits: Acorn woodpeckers are the most social of all North American woodpecker species. They live in closely-knit groups of both sexes and all ages year round. They use communal trees and the young are fed by the entire group.

Food: They feed mostly on acorns, which are stored in holes drilled in the bark of communal trees. About a quarter of their diet is insects.

Range: South from Oregon along the Pacific Coast and through the Southwest

## Oak Savanna

An Oak Savanna has scattered large Oregon white oak trees on dry, grassy hillsides. Some of these oaks are over 200 years old. Their broad, spreading shapes indicate they grew without competition from other trees for space and light. Repeated fires prevented other trees from becoming established.

### Animals You Might See

Northern Harrier, Gray-tailed Vole, California Ground Squirrel, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Acorn Woodpecker and American Goldfinch

### Species Highlight:

#### Northern Flicker

Identification: White rump, salmon-red underling of wings and tail.

Habitat Needs: Flickers prefer open woodlands or grasslands with scattered large trees, but they can be seen in nearly all Oregon Habitats. They nest in holes they excavate in dead trees or dead limbs of live trees.

Special Habits: Unlike other woodpeckers, flickers often feed on the ground.

Food: Flickers eat more ants than any other Northern American bird. They probe anthills with their bills and extended tongues. They also eat other insects, weed seeds, and wild fruit, including poison oak berries.

Range: North America

## Ash Swale

Ash Swales are dense woodlands of medium sized Oregon ash trees on poorly drained, seasonally flooded sites with Sedge and fern ground cover.

### Animals You Might See

Raccoon, Wood Duck, Beaver, Pacific Tree Frog, Hooded Merganser, Rough-skin Newt (Salamander)

### Species Highlight:

#### Red-Breasted Sap Sucker

Identification: Scarlet hood

Habitat Needs: Red-breasted sapsuckers are most abundant along streams in mixed hardwood-conifer forest. They usually nest in snags or in live trees with rotten heartwood.

Special Habits: They communicate by slow tapping and drumming.

Food: As their name suggests, they regularly eat sap throughout the year. They drill parallel rows of small holes in the trunks and branches of trees, permitting sap to ooze out. Insects are attracted to the sweet-smelling sap and become part of the sapsucker's meal.

Range: North American South of Alaska

## Douglas Fir Forest

Douglas Fir Forest includes Douglas fir trees, generally less than 50 years old, form dense stands. The understory commonly is sword fern and Oregon grape. Douglas fir emerged here following the end of periodic burning in the 1930s. This trail just touches the edge of the Douglas fir forest that covers the higher ridges to the west.

### Animals You Might See

Black Bear, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Stellar's Jay, Townsend's Chipmunk, Douglas Squirrel

### Species Highlight:

#### Hairy Woodpecker

Identification: Broad white stripe down back.

Habitat Needs: In Oregon, hairy woodpeckers are found mainly in coniferous forests. They prefer to excavate nest holes in trees in open locations

Special Habitats: They are expert climbers, at home on vertical trunks and the underside of branches. They often excavate the entrance of a branch, to discourage invaders like starlings and flying squirrels.

Food: They prefer insects on dead and diseased trees.

Range: North America

## Mixed Deciduous Forest

This big-leaf maple and Oregon white oak forest is on the site of a former Douglas fir forest. Dogwoods and a few old Douglas firs are also growing here. The fast growing maples emerged following logging of the Douglas fir. Douglas fir seedlings cannot grow in the dense shade.

### Animals You Might See

Deer Mouse, Common Bushtit, Great Horned Owl, Ruffed Grouse, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Dark-eyed Junco

### Species Highlight:

#### Pileated Woodpecker

Identification: Black, crow-sized with red crest

Habitat Needs: These large woodpeckers prefer dense coniferous forests, or mixed hardwood-conifer forests. They excavate their elongated nest holes in tall dead trees.

Special Habits: Both sexes drum, usually on a resonant place on a dead tree or dead limb. Drumming advertises territory, attracts a mate, or announces that the birds are about to go to roost for the night.

Food: Carpenter ants and beetles are their major foods. In the fall, they eat wild fruits such as dogwood berries and cherries.

Range: Canada to California along Pacific Coast, east across wooded Canada, east of Mississippi River.