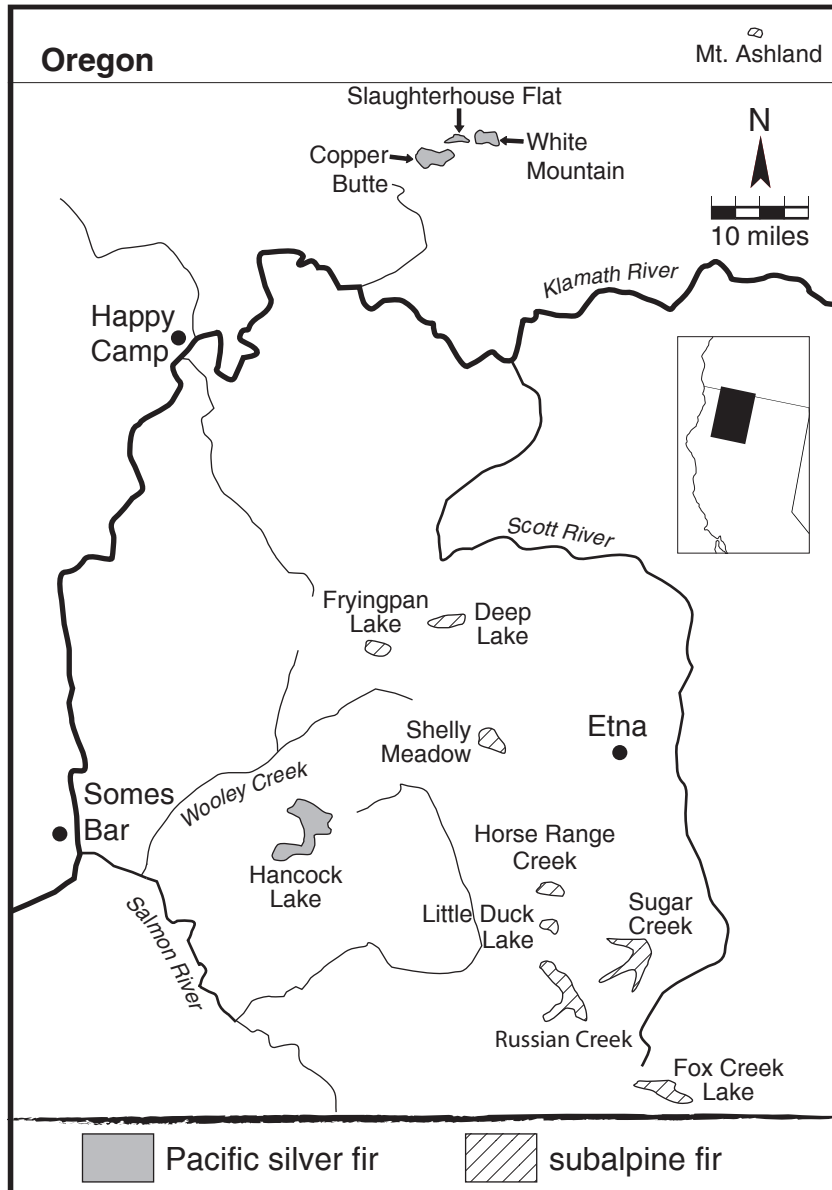


Pacific silver fir and subalpine fir in northwest California



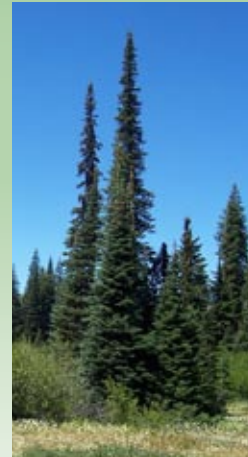
Range* of *Abies amabilis* and *Abies lasiocarpa* in Northwest California

* based on Griffin and Critchfield (1976), Lanner (1999) and personal observation

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subalpine fir

Pinaceae
Abies lasiocarpa



- ◀ from a distance, this species is one of the most distinct in the forest as the crowns taper point—usually in meadows or around lakes
- ▼ characterized by “star-like” needle growth and bark, even at maturity, resembling that of other immature fir species



Bark: smooth gray to white with resin blisters on the newer growth, tending toward shallow fissures with age **Needles:** $\frac{3}{4}$ "-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", dark green about and blunt on the end, growing spirally from the branch, tending upward on lower branches; undersides of needles are as dark as the upper side; new growth with stomatal bloom on both sides; sharp odor **Cones:** 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "-4", purple, cylindrical, standing upright; remain on tree longer than other firs (up to a year) **Habitat:** near upper limit of mountain forests above 6000 feet, at sites characterized by cool summers, cold winters, and heavy snowpack; often at edges of wet meadows or lakes

Pacific silver fir

Pinaceae
Abies amabilis

- ▶ bark has distinct rectangular-blocking platelets

- ▼ the undersides of the needles are flush with beautiful stomatal bloom



Bark: grayish-green when young, becoming silvery-white with age, generally smooth, but with linear blocky plates divided by narrow furrowing **Needles:** up to 1.5", tending to cluster on upper part of branch, pointing sideways and forward, some twisting; dark green above in distinct contrast to underside, which has well defined, bright white stomatal bloom; distinct notches at blunt tips **Cones:** 3"-6", standing upright, purple to purple-brown, clustering near top **Habitat:** restricted, growing on cool, moist, north-facing slopes of mountains above 5500 feet, partial to sites with heavy snowpack