KEY TO NATIVE CONIFERS

1. a. Leaves are needle-like: cones are woody or papery and brown in color. ..…………….....................2

b. Leaves have overlapping scales, cones are berry-like and blue in color…………………….………….9

2. a. Needles arise in bundles or packets of 2,3, or 5: cones scales are woody…………………...............3

b. Needles do NOT arise in bundles or packets but are singular: cone scales are thin and papery......5

3. a. Needles arise in bundles of 5: branches are exceptionally flexible, cones have even diamond shaped scales...............................................…………………………….………………………..**Limber Pine**

b. Needles arise in bundles of 3 and are unusually long: cones occur in groups of three with a center stamen........……………………………………………………………………………..….........**Ponderosa Pine**

c. Needles arise in bundles of 2: cones are small ………………...................………….…….................4

4. a. Needles are twisted in appearance: cones are on underside of branch: trunk grows straight and tall.........................................................………………………………..………….…….......**Lodgepole Pine**

b. Needles usually less than 2 inches long: cones are short with large edible seeds: trunk is short and tree is bushy in appearance...........................…………………………………..…………...**Pinyon Pine**

5. a. Needles are flat and blunt: not sharp to touch..................…………................................................6

b. Needles are NOT flat, but are square in cross section: sharp to touch……………….…….…….…,8

6. a. Needles point outward from twig: cones with leafy bract extending from the cone scales, trees are tall and straight…………….....……………………………………….……………..…………...**Douglas Fir**

b. Needles arise from twig on all sides but bend upward: cones without leafy bracts extending from cone scales......................……………..............................................................………….........................7

7. a. Needles usually less than 1 inch in length: cones cluster on bottom of branch……..**Subalpine Fir**

b. Needles have whitish tinge; cone scales look like stacks or layers…………….………..…...**White Fir**

8. a. Bark is gray in color: cones have rounded cone scales: mature trees are rounded in shape…………………………………………………………………………………………...**Englemann Spruce**

b. Young twigs and branches are stiff, growing outward in flat layers: cones have flattened cone scales: trees are bushy and have a blue shade................………..……………………………**Blue Spruce**

9. a. Leaves have a white color on tips: mature tree grows as a low lying bush……...**Common Juniper**

b. Leaves are have small scales…....................................................................……………..……….....10

10. a. Berry-like cones are small, rarely to ¼ inch in diameter: trunk usually forked and bark is papery and sheds off in sheets......................................………………………………………............**Utah Juniper**

b. Scaly leaves are smooth: trunk usually with a central stem...……..…...**Rocky Mountain Juniper**