

Lake Tahoe Basin



Record 9-foot diameter Sugar Pine on Angora Creek, lost during the Angora Fire in 2007.

Big Tree Register



This booklet documents the largest known tree for native species growing within the Lake Tahoe Basin. Since new trees may be found that are larger than the ones listed here, this booklet will be updated.

The *Lake Tahoe Basin Big Tree Register* follows procedures used by the American Forestry Association (A.F.A.) to catalog the biggest trees in the nation. The A.F.A. publishes *The National Register of Big Trees*, which contains more than 700 champion native and naturalized tree species. The A.F.A. recognizes trees listed in the *Checklist of United States Trees – Native and Naturalized* (Ag Handbook No. 54). However, The Lake Tahoe Basin's program accepts any native species considered to be a tree.

A tree is defined as “a woody plant having an erect perennial stem or trunk that will be at least 9-1/2 inches in circumference (3” diameter) at maturity at a point 4-1/2 feet above the ground, a definitely formed crown of foliage, and a mature height of at least 12 feet.” Some plants surprisingly considered being trees are sagebrush, serviceberry and willow. Be sure to call if your tree is “in question”.

Champion trees are compared by determining a tree's total points, the circumference (in inches), height (in feet), and ¼ of the average crown spread (in feet) are added together to get a total score.

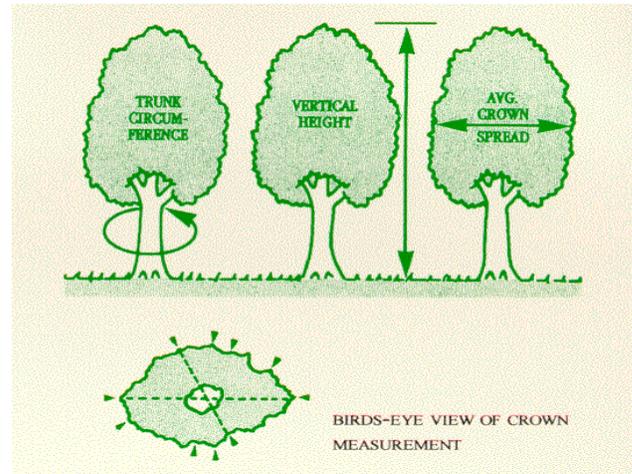
Other sources of information on national and local big trees can be found on the A.F.A. web page: <http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/>

The Nevada Division of Forestry web page: [Nevada's Big Tree Program | Nevada Division of Forestry](#);

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection web page, [California Register of Big Trees - Home](#)



Nominating a Big Tree takes a few simple steps to ensure accuracy of measurements and information. The national program requires three measurements; *circumference, height and average crown spread*.



If you wish to nominate a big tree for this booklet or for the national or state programs, a nomination form with measuring instructions is in the back of this register. We suggest that you make copies of this form for submissions and keep the original in this booklet for future reference. Keep a copy of any nominations you make.

- ◆ Include the following:
 - Tree name and species.
 - Location with enough detail that the tree can be found again. GPS coordinates in UTM format are preferred for remote locations.
 - Nominator's name, phone number and address.
 - Date measured and method used.
 - Photos appreciated (please identify people and tree).

- ◆ Send to:
 - Lake Tahoe Basin Big Tree Program
 - Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
 - 35 College Drive
 - South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
 - For more information call:
(530) 543-2687; or Fax: (530) 543-2693

Measuring assistance is available at the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit office.

The Lake Tahoe Basin Big Tree Register has been compiled over several years from nominations submitted by big tree enthusiasts from all walks of life. People, whether they are outdoor enthusiasts, landowners, or agency employees, are naturally drawn to big trees. Many of the big trees in this register may not seem so big when compared to the national champions. When looking for big trees consider that many trees that grow to huge proportions on the west slope of the Sierras may be significantly smaller in the more arid Lake Tahoe Basin. And remember, a tree doesn't have to be a giant, just large for its species. In some cases larger trees than those listed must exist, but they have not been nominated yet.

Trees are grouped alphabetically by their general type (e.g. pine, fir), then by common and scientific name. The year the tree was first nominated and the year of the most recent measurement is shown. Measurements listed are circumference (inches), height (feet), average crown spread (feet), crown points shown in parentheses and the point total. The original nominator(s) and current owner (if known) are listed, and finally a general location is given. If you wish to view big trees on public land, contact us for more specific directions. Requests for access to private property will be referred to the landowner.

Tree Trivia

Two mature trees produce enough oxygen to support the need of one person for a year.

Trees remove carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from the air and use it to make "wood". For each ton of new wood, trees remove about 1.47 tons of carbon from the air.

One acre of trees can remove 13 tons of toxic gases and particulates from the air every year.

Trees cool the air by providing shade and humidity. When planted in the right location they decrease heating and cooling costs. One and a half mature trees per house could reduce the nation's energy costs by \$2 billion annually.

The state with the most national champions is Florida with 170, followed by California with 94. There are 826 eligible species nation wide with 733 species with champions. That leaves 93 species without a champion!

The Nation's tallest tree standing an amazing 321 feet is a coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, growing in Jedidiah Smith State Park, California.

A giant sequoia, *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, has the largest mass of any tree in the world. Growing in Sequoia National Park, California this famous tree, named General Sherman, has a girth of 998 inches (more than 83 feet), a height of 275 feet, and a crown spread of 107 feet, for a total of 1,300 points.

The intermountain bristlecone pine, *Pinus aristata* var. *longaeva* is the longest-lived organism on earth. The oldest specimen is believed to be more than 4,500 years old growing in the White Mountains of the Inyo National Forest. The oldest national champion tree is a western juniper believed to be 4000 years old growing on the Stanislaus National Forest in California.

California's state champion tree is the General Sherman giant sequoia, while Nevada's state champion tree is a Fremont cottonwood named "El Viejo – *The Old One*" growing south of Reno with a circumference of 381", a height of 119' and a crown spread of 96'.

Quaking Aspen, *Populus tremuloides*

First measured: 2004, last measured: 2004

Nominated by: Dave Alessio

Circumference: 125 inches (39.7" diameter)

Height: 97 feet

Crown: 31 feet (8 crown points)

Total Points: 230

CA State Champion
Stanislaus NF, CA

133"

74'

32'

215

National Champion
Umatilla NF, OR

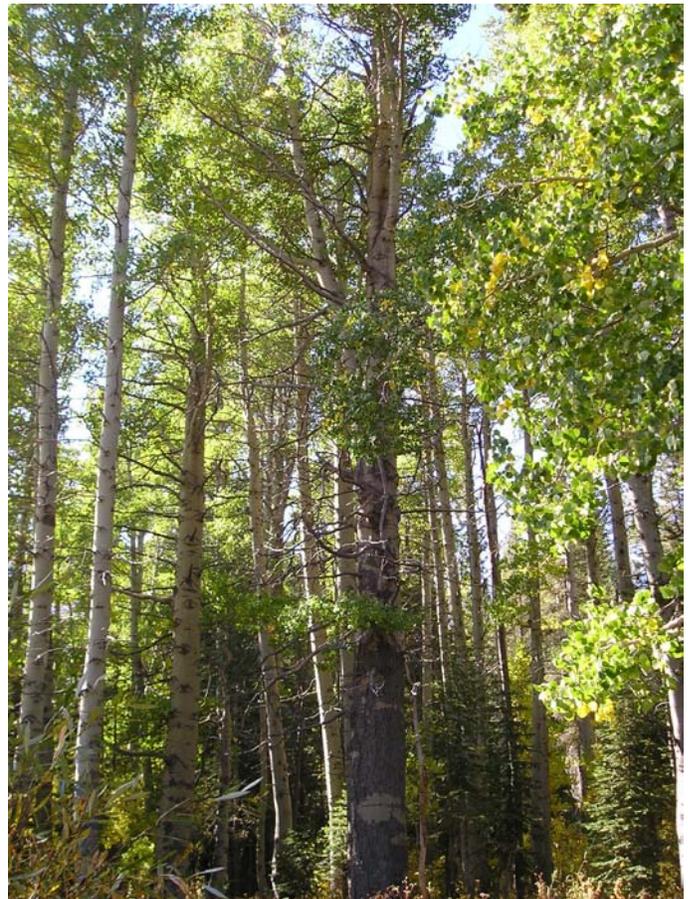
120"

136'

44'

267

Location: This tree is located on the south side of Blackwood Canyon about one mile west of Highway 89 in Placer County, California at an elevation of 6350 feet; T.14N, R.16E, NW ¼ Section 35, MDM&B.



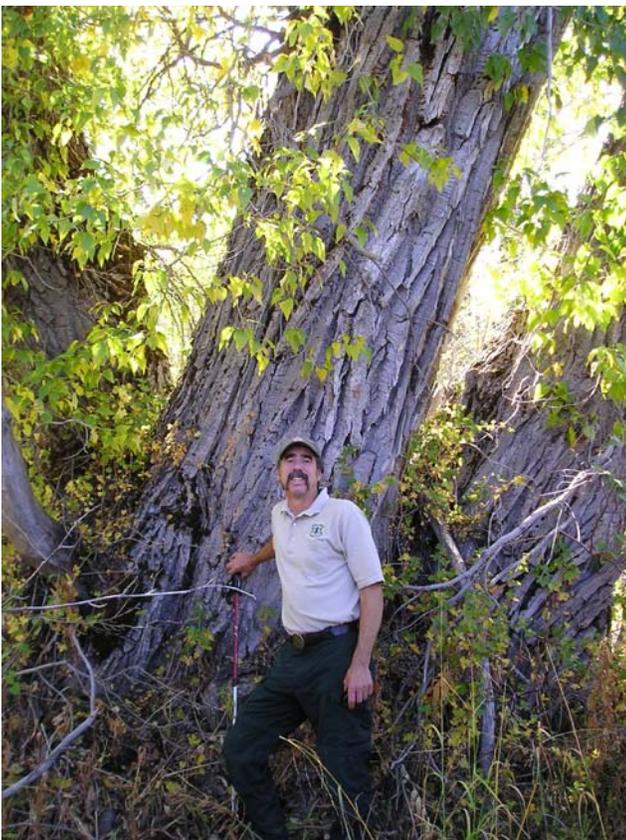
Black Cottonwood, *Populus trichocarpa*

First measured: 2004, last measured: 2004

Nominated by: Dave Alessio

	CA State Champion Lompoc, CA	National Champion Willamette Mission SP, OR
Circumference: 178 inches (56.7" diameter)	74"	320"
Height: 89 feet	74'	158'
Crown: 22 feet (6 crown points)	50'	110'
Total Points: 273	161	506

Location: This tree is located on the south side of Blackwood Creek near where Forest Road 3 crosses Blackwood Creek in Placer County, California at an elevation of 6400 feet; T.14N, R.16E, Center Section 34, MDM&B.



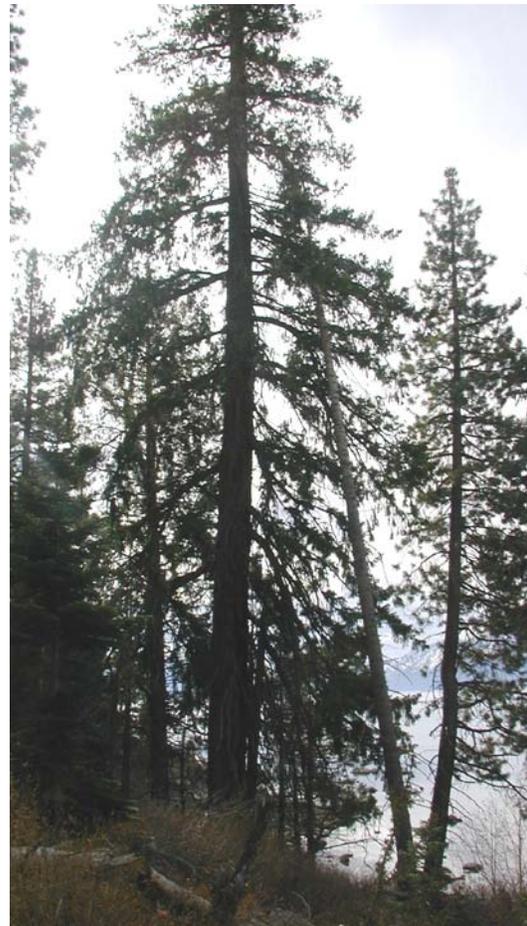
Coast Douglas-fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*

First measured: 1993, last measured: 2002.

Nominated by: Rick Jones

	NV State Champion Logan Shoals, LTBMU	National Champion Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP, CA
Circumference: 170 inches (54.1" diameter)	170"	512"
Height: 147 feet	147'	301'
Crown: 44 feet (11 crown points)	44'	65'
Total Points: 328	328	829

Location: This tree is located at the north end of the Logan Shore Vista Point off U.S. Highway 50 in Douglas County, Nevada at an elevation of 6250'; T.14N, R.18E; center Section 22, MDM&B.



California Red Fir, *Abies magnifica*

First measured in 2004, last measured in 2004

Nominated by: Dave Alessio

	CA State Champion Yosemite NP, CA	National Champion Yosemite NP, CA
Circumference: 260 inches (82.8" diameter)	365"	365"
Height: 176 feet	172'	172'
Crown: 38 feet (10 crown points)	41'	41'
Total Points: 446	547	547

Location: This tree is located south of Benwood Meadow in El Dorado County, California at an elevation of 8200', T.11N, R.18E; center Section 18, MDM&B.

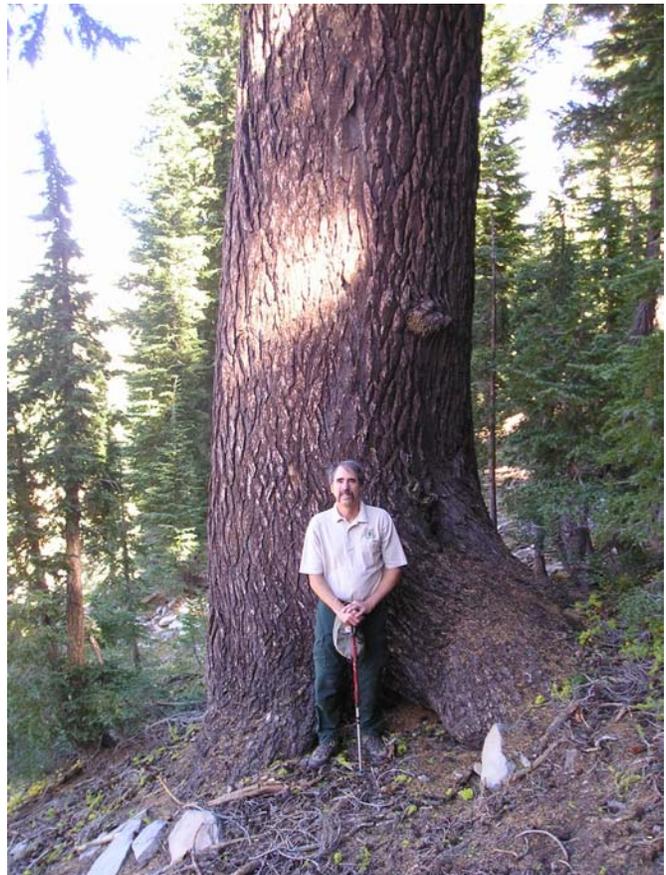


Mountain Hemlock, *Tsuga mertensiana*

First measured: 2004, last measured: 2004
Nominated by: Dave Alessio

	CA State Champion Alpine County, CA	National Champion Alpine County, CA
Circumference: 220 inches (69.9" diameter)	277"	277"
Height: 104 feet	113'	113'
Crown: 45 feet (11 crown points)	44'	44'
Total Points: 335	401	401

Location: This tree is located along the Tahoe Rim Trail north of Barker Pass at the headwaters of the north fork of Blackwood Creek in Placer County, California at an elevation of 8000 feet; T.14N, R.16E, NW ¼ Section 5, MDM&B.



Incense-Cedar, *Calocedrus decurrens*

First measured: 2009, last measured: 2009

Nominated by: Rita Mustatia

	CA State Champion Marble Mtn Wilderness, CA	National Champion Marble Mtn Wilderness, CA
Circumference: 337 inches (107.3" diameter)	468"	468"
Height: 132 feet	165'	165'
Crown: 63 feet (16 crown points)	49'	49'
Total Points: 485	645	645

Location: This tree is located near the junction of Forest Road 14N42 and Forest Trail 17E01 in the Meeks Creek drainage approximately one and one-quarter miles west of State Highway 89 in El Dorado County, California at an elevation of 6320 feet; T.14N, R.17E, SW ¼ of Section 30, MDM&B.



Western (Sierra) Juniper, *Juniperus occidentalis*

First measured: 2010, last measured: 2010

Nominated by: Scott Parsons

	CA State Champion Stanislaus NF, CA	National Champion Stanislaus NF, CA
Circumference: 269 inches (85.5" diameter)	481"	481"
Height: 82 feet	78'	78'
Crown: 38 feet (9 crown points)	56'	56'
Total Points: 360	573	573

Location: This tree is located south of Big Meadow east of the Tahoe Rim Trail in El Dorado County, California at an elevation of 7500'. The tree is located in a stand of red fir and lodgepole pine, T.11N, R.18E, NE1/4 Section 28, MDM&B.



California Black Oak, *Quercus kelloggii*

First measured: 2002, last measured: 2002

Nominated by: Molly Bernegger

	CA State Champion Springville, CA	National Champion Siskiyou NF, OR
Circumference: 32 inches (10.3" diameter)	226"	338"
Height: 12 feet	120'	124'
Crown: 23 feet (6 crown points)	68'	115'
Total Points: 50	363	491

Location: This tree is located in Blackwood Canyon approximately ¼ mile north of Forest Road 3 (1.5 miles from the junction of State Highway 89 in Placer County, California at an elevation of 6,465 feet; T.14N, R.16E, SE ¼ Section 26, MDM&B.



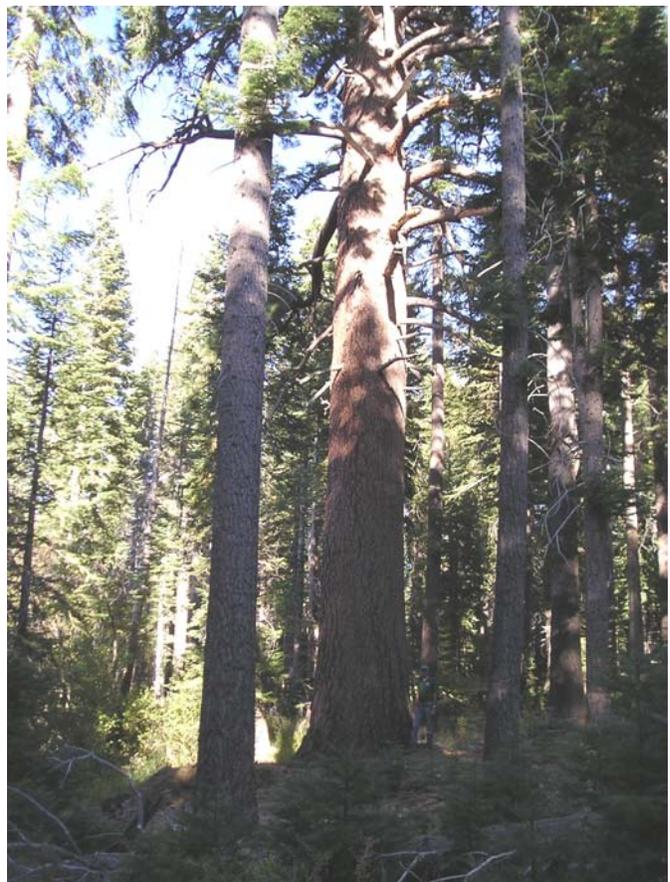
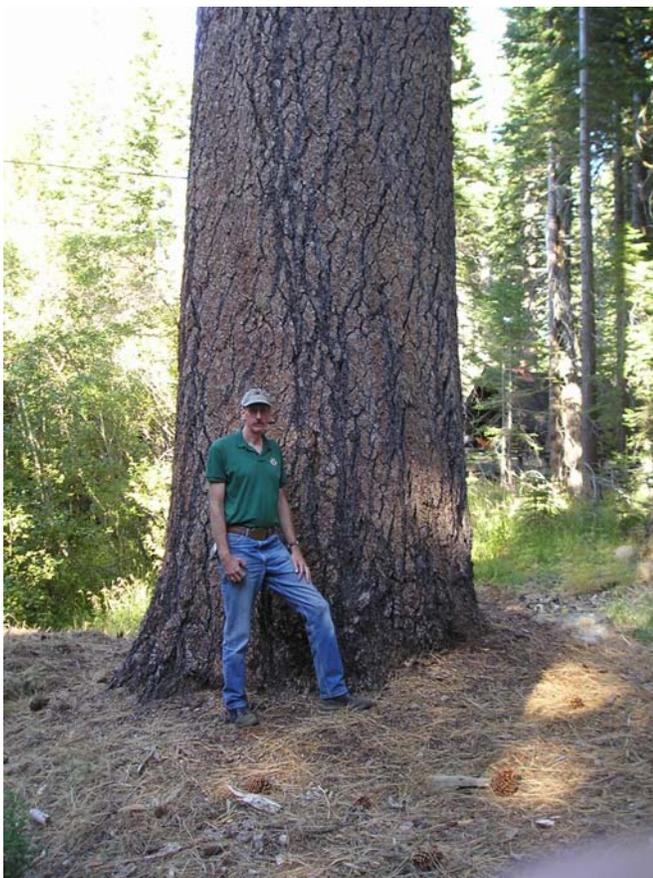
Jeffrey Pine, *Pinus jeffreyi*

First measured: 1998, last measured: 2004, tree died in summer 2006

Nominated by: Scott Parsons

	CA State Champion Stanislaus NF, CA	National Champion Stanislaus NF, CA
Circumference: 285 inches (90.7" diameter)	306"	306"
Height: 152 feet	202'	202'
Crown: 56 feet (14 crown points)	79'	79'
Total Points: 451	528	528

Location: This tree is located on Pomo Street within the Spring Creek Recreation Residence tract, east of Taylor Creek in El Dorado County, California at an elevation of 6480', T.13N, R.17E, SE ¼ Section 34, MDB&B.



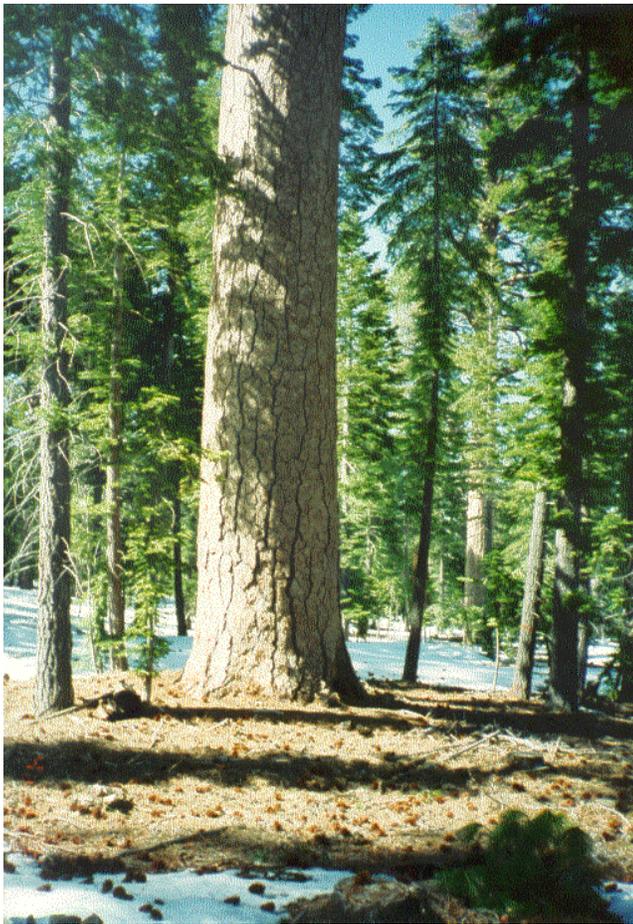
Ponderosa Pine, *Pinus ponderosa*

First measured: 1995, last measured: 1995

Nominated by: Robert McDowell

	CA State Champion Plumas NF, CA	National Champion Plumas NF, CA
Circumference: 277 inches (88.2" diameter)	293"	293"
Height: 168 feet	227'	227'
Crown: 62 feet (16 crown points)	68'	68'
Total Points: 461	537	537

Location: This tree is located east of the entrance to the Spring Creek Recreation Residence tract about 500' south of Highway 89 in El Dorado County, California at an elevation of 6320', T.13N, R.17E, NW ¼ Section 35, MDM&B.



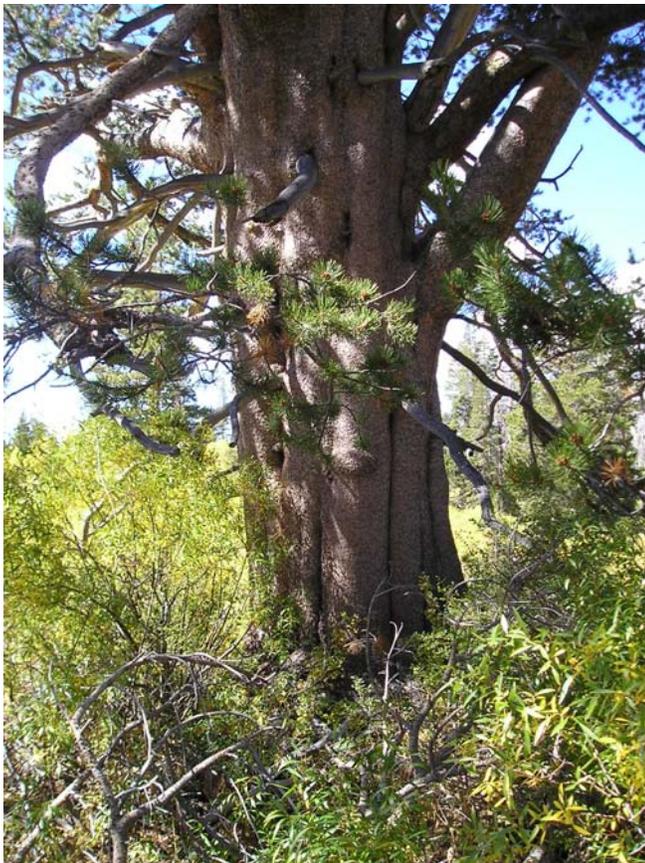
Sierra Nevada Lodgepole Pine, *Pinus contorta* var. *murrayana*

First measured: 2004, last measured: 2004

Nominated by: Dave Alessio

	CA State Champion San Bernardino NF, CA	National Champion San Bernardino NF, CA
Circumference: 223 inches (71.1" diameter)	245"	245"
Height: 110 feet	116'	116'
Crown: 66 feet (17 crown points)	50'	50'
Total Points: 350	374	374

Location: This tree is located south of the Scott's Lake trail in El Dorado County, California at an elevation of 7800'; T.11N, R.18E, SE ¼ Section 20, MDM&B.



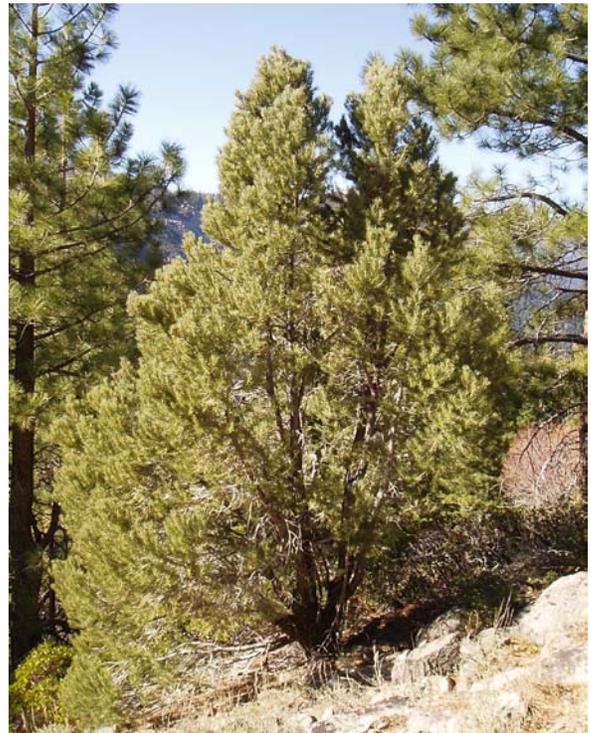
One-leaved Pinyon Pine, *Pinus monophylla*

First measured: 2006, last measured: 2006

Nominated by: Dave Kearney

	NV State Champion Washoe County, NV	National Champion Washoe County, NV
Circumference: 16 inches (5.25" diameter)	167"	167"
Height: 24 feet	50'	50'
Crown: 16 feet (4 crown points)	52'	52'
Total Points: 44	230	230

Location: This tree is located on the west facing slope above Highway 89 at the south end of Christmas Valley in El Dorado County, California at an elevation of 7000'; T11N, R18E, NE ¼ Section 17, MDM&B.



Western White Pine, *Pinus monticola*

First measured: 1993, last measured: 2003

Nominated by: Mike Owens, Susan Stead; Re-measured by Dave Alessio, Scott Parsons

	NV State Champion Killebrew Cyn, LTBMU	National Champion El Dorado NF, CA
Circumference: 317 inches (100.9" diameter)	317"	394"
Height: 152 feet	152'	151'
Crown: 81 feet (20 crown points)	81'	52'
Total Points: 489	489	558

Location: This tree is located on the Tahoe Rim Trail in Killebrew Canyon in Douglas County, Nevada at an elevation of 8,500', T12N, R19E, NW ¼ of the SE ¼ Section 6, MDM&B.



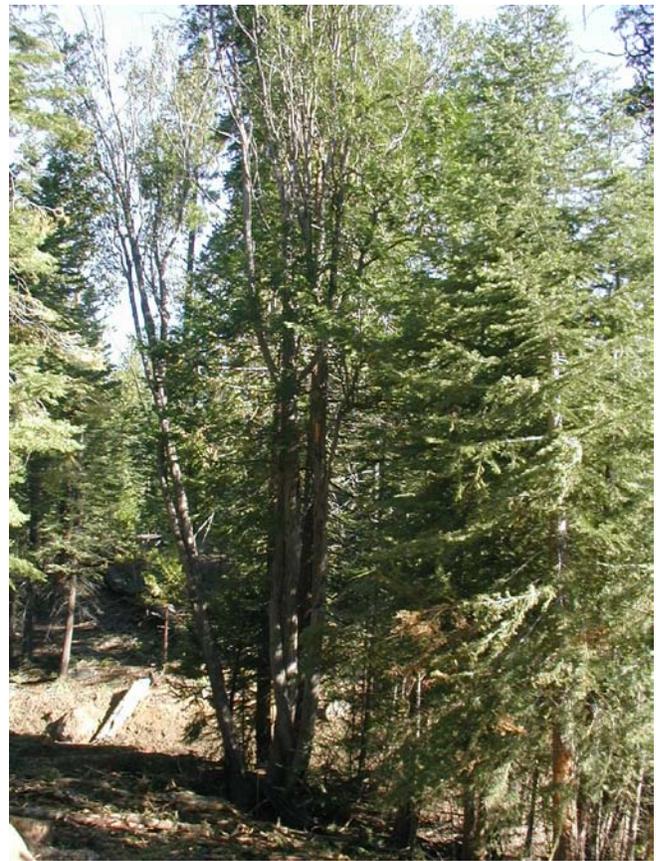
Scouler Willow, *Salix scoulerana*

First measured: 2003, last measured: 2003

Nominated by: Kristine Leep

	State Champion Spooner Lake SP, NV	National Champion Maury Island, WA
Circumference: 42 inches (14.3" diameter)	56"	144"
Height: 78 feet	50'	64'
Crown: 13 feet (3 crown points)	24'	47'
Total Points: 123	112	220

Location: Tree is located within a cluster of four Scouler willows on the left bank of the South Fork of Marlette Creek approximately 300' upstream of road 15N09A in Washoe County, Nevada at an elevation of 6480'; T.15N, R.18E, SE ¼ Section 11, MDM&B.



Lake Tahoe Basin Big Tree Program Nomination Form

Common Name: _____

Scientific Name: _____

Circumference (inches) at 4.5 feet: _____
(above the average ground level)

Average Crown Spread (feet): _____

Total Height (feet): _____

Date Measured: _____

Measurer's name: _____

Exact Location of Tree: _____
(Sketch map below)

County: _____

Describe Tree's Condition: _____

Owner's Address: _____

Nominator's Name: _____

Nominator's Address: _____

Nominator's Phone Number: _____

Please sketch a map on the back of this page showing tree location and attach a photo of the tree.

Please return completed form to:

Lake Tahoe Basin Big Tree Coordinator
Attention: Scott Parsons
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150