

## Common Plants on the Trail



Mountain Big Sagebrush  
(*Artemisia tridentata*)

This evergreen shrub is the state flower of Nevada. It can live up to 50 years and usually grows to be about

5 feet tall. It gets its name *tridentata* from the three lobes at the tip of the leaves.



Jeffrey Pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*)

This is a very common tree in this area. It generally lives at elevations from 6,000 to 9,000 feet. This tree can be identified by having three needles per bunch, or fascicle, and a pretty large cone that you can squeeze without being poked. This characteristic gave the pine its nickname, "Gentle Jeffrey." The bark of this tree also has the aroma of butterscotch.

HINT: You can smell the butterscotch better if you sniff areas of the tree that have been exposed to the sun.

### What animals am I most likely to see on the trail?

The most common animals that you will see on the trail are small lizards, chipmunks and squirrels. Nothing too scary.

### Are there bears around here?

There are bears in the Galena Creek area, they're black bears. If you see a bear on your hike the best thing to do is keep your distance, 50 yards at the least. If the bear starts to approach you, don't run, slowly back away from the bear and keep as much distance as you can. If the bear continues to come toward you make threatening gestures and be as loud as you can. Make yourself look as large as you possibly can and throw non-food items to try and scare the bear off.

### What about Mountain Lions?

There are mountain lions in the area however any sightings are rare. If you do see a mountain lion do not run! Stand and face the animal and make as much noise and make yourself as big as you possibly can.

### What's the history of this area?

This area was originally inhabited by the native tribes of the Washoe and Paiute Indians. They lived in this area and Tahoe during the winters because there was a lot available for shelter, fire fuel, and hunting.

Galena was originally founded as a gold mining property. Because of the high lead sulfate mix it wasn't very economical to mine here so the area was turned into a lumber center. After two fires the town and timber trade was abandoned.

## Galena Creek Visitor Center Interpretative Trail





**Bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*)**

Bitterbrush is an upright shrub that can grow to be about 10 feet tall. This shrub also has three-lobed leaves which, like the sagebrush, is the reason for the tridentata name. This shrub lives at elevations from 3,100 to 10,000 feet.



**Shiny-Leaf Ceanothus (*Ceanothus velutinus*)**

This plant has large, oval leaves with toothed edges. This plant is easily identifiable by the three very distinct veins on the bottom of the leaves. This plant has white flowers and normally lives at an elevation from 1,500 to 10,000 feet.



**Mahala Mat (*Ceanothus prostrates*)**

Mahala Mat is an evergreen shrub that forms a dense carpet-like mat on the ground that can get up to 10 feet across. This plant likes to live in elevations from 3,000 to 7,800 feet.



**Greenleaf Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*)**

The Greenleaf Manzanita looks similar to the Shiny-Leaf Ceanothus but you can easily tell them apart by three things; one, the manzanita has smooth edges on the leaf, not toothed. Two, their leaves don't have the distinct veins that the Ceanothus does, and three, the leaves of the manzanita are smaller and more leathery. These plants usually live from about 2,500 to 9,500 feet.



**Trembling, or quaking, Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)**

The darker on top and lighter on bottom colors of the aspen's leaves are what give it a trembling look when the wind blows. These trees are the largest organisms on the planet because aspen groves are all sprouted from the same roots.



**Woolly Mule-Ears (*Wyethia mollis*)**

This plant has very large, pale green leaves that are covered in tiny hairs. This makes them very soft to the touch. They are 2-4 inches wide and can get up to 16 inches long. These plants have a large yellow flower. American Indians fermented the roots of this plant for a sweet flavored food. This plant lives at elevations from 4,500 to 10,600 feet.