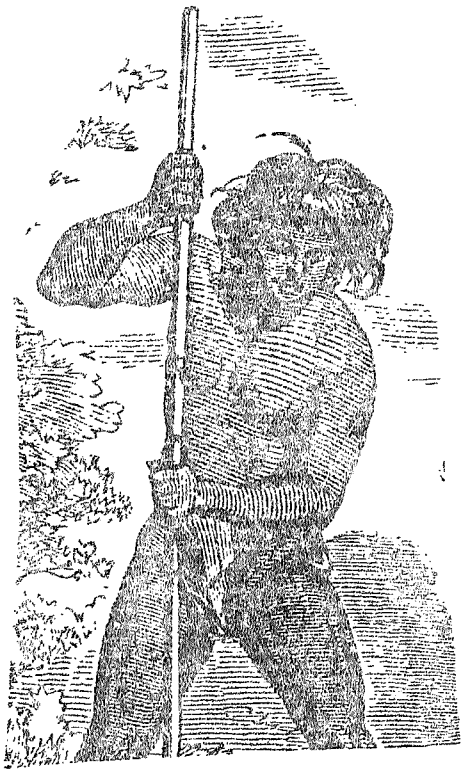
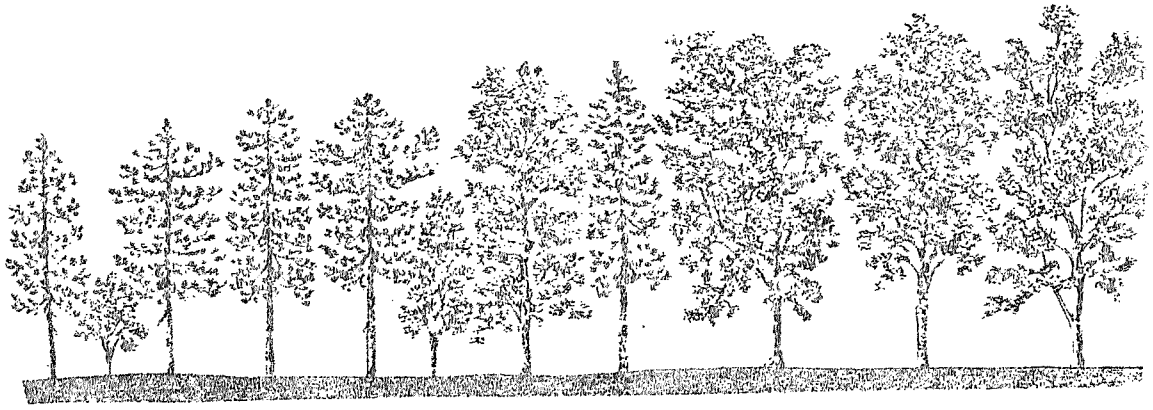
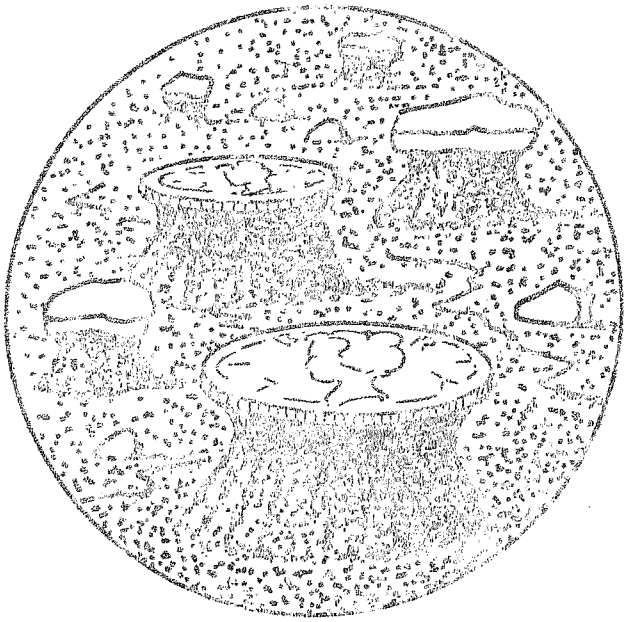


Traveling the Transition Trail

Los Posados 4-H Camp
Napa County





EROSION on the HILL

Take a minute to notice the little pillars on the side of the road. These pillars are caused when a rock protects the ground underneath it from washing away. The rain washes away the surrounding dirt, leaving the protecting rock standing on a pillar of dirt. The importance of this is to point out erosion.

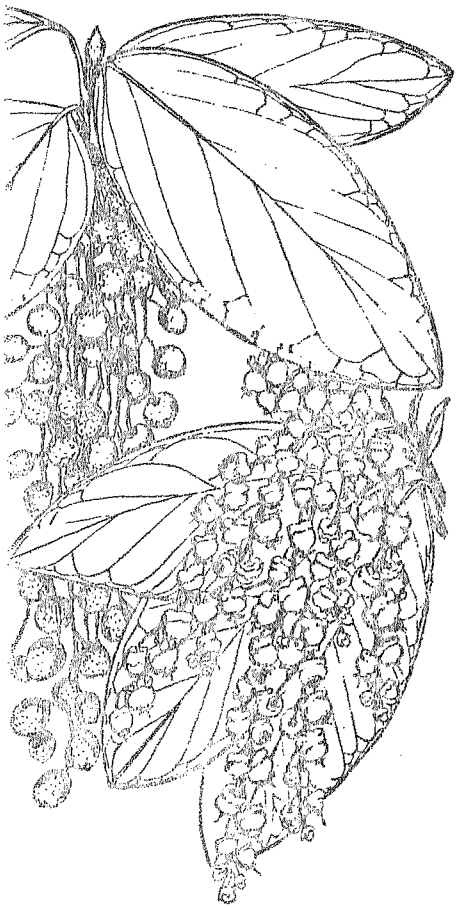
Erosion means wearing away. We've all seen gulleys where a raging creek has worn away the ground; that's erosion. The Grand Canyon is a huge example of erosion. These pillars are an example of a way to protect the ground from washing away.

1C
In High Chaparral

MANZANITA
Arctostophylos silvicola

Manzanita means little apple in Spanish. It gets its name from its little fruit. These little trees with deep red bark and little uniform green to grey leaves have dainty flowers that are white and bell shaped. The Indians used the Manzanitas to make cider and jelly.

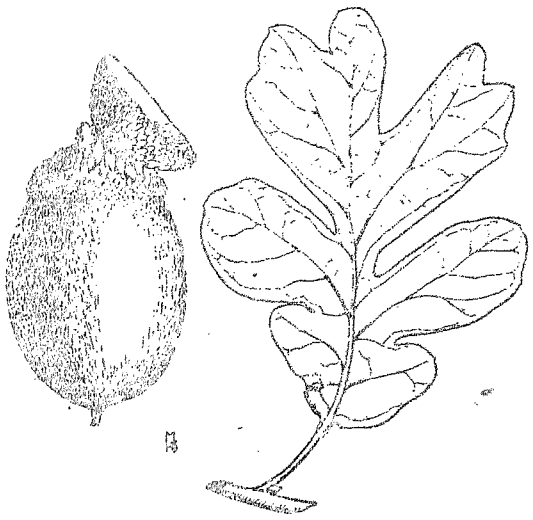
In the chaparral, the dryer forest, the Manzanita is a predominant plant. In this, the transition area, the Manzanita is in small clumps or alone. The beauty of a transition forest is there is a wide variety of plants from neighboring areas.

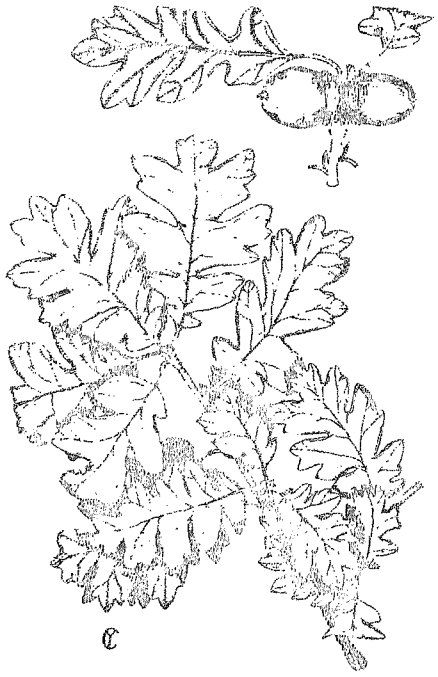


MADRONE
Arbutus menziesii

One of the distinctive features of the Madrone tree is its red brown papery bark. Many of the trees in this area are small, between 30-35 feet tall. At different places in the camp, the Madrone trees have grown to nearly 100 feet tall. The leaves of the Madrone are large, at least 3" by 6". They are dark green on top and light green underneath. It has white flowers and red berries. Madrone trees are one of the first trees to sprout back after a fire. The wood from the Madrone is becoming popular in flooring and veneer.

3





NP oc #

OREGON OAK
Quercus garryana

4

This is a white oak. One of the unique things about this oak is the acorns, which are fatter at the bottom than at the top. This makes them look bloated. The leaves are from 3 to 6 inches long and have rounded lobes. The leaves are also a more true green. The acorns are an important food for the deer in the fall. At Los Posadas, these trees rarely grow taller than 30-35 feet.

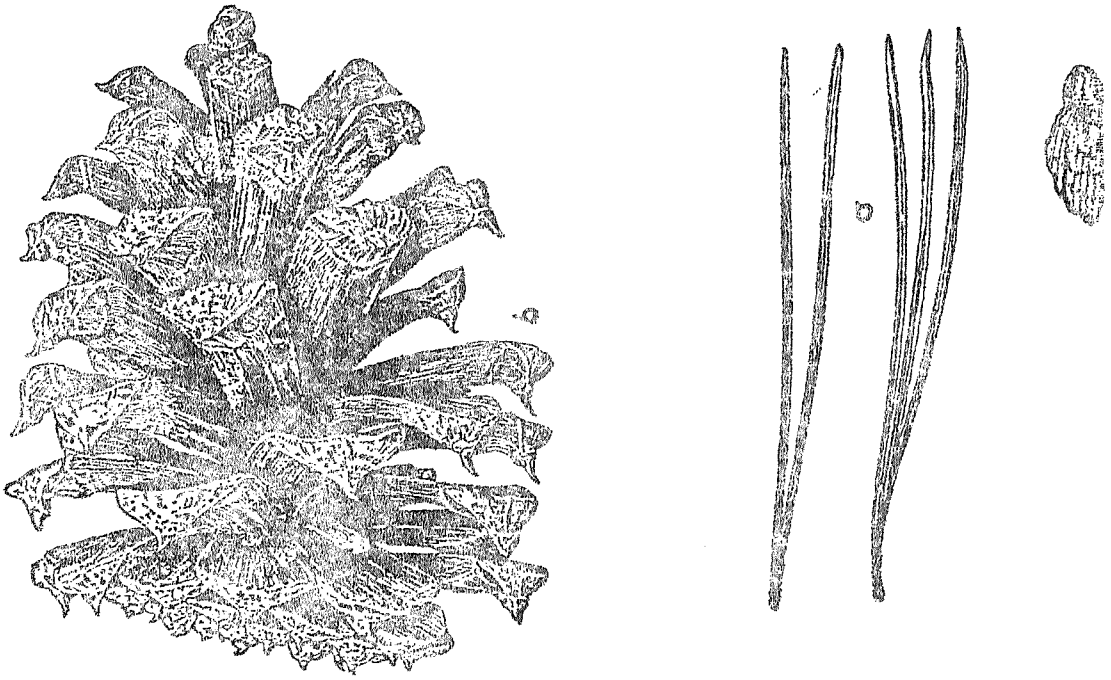
POISON OAK
Rhus diversiloba

NP 2 In Chap

5

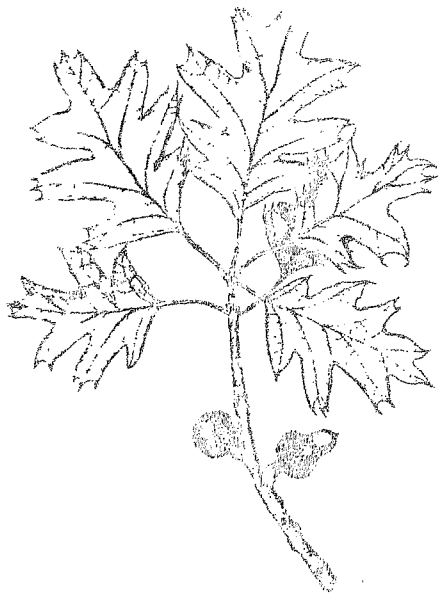
Poison Oak can fool you. Sometimes it looks like a bush, sometimes vine like, and still other times it can almost look like a small tree. It has shiny, bright leaves in the Spring and Fall. Its leaves resemble an oaks, but they are in groups of three. Most people are allergic to the oil which is in the leaves and stems, both can cause a terrible rash. This is a plant you want to remember because it is everywhere in California.

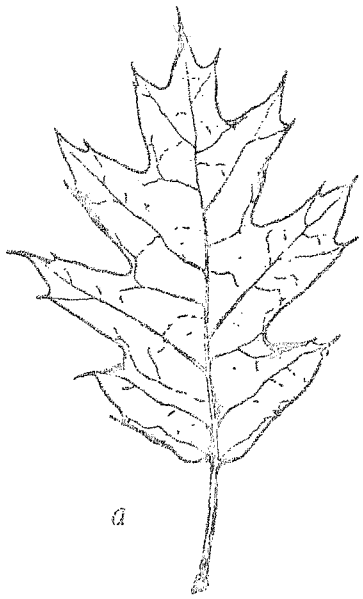
The Indians, for the most part, weren't allergic to the oil. They used it to make a black dye.



PONDEROSA PINE
Pinus ponderosa

The Ponderosa Pine is the most important timber species in the Sierra Nevada forest belt. The tree can grow to 180 feet tall, by 4 feet in diameter, though there is no tree that big in camp. The leaves are green, in groups of 2 or 3 needles, 4 to 7 inches long. The cones are orange brown and are 3 to 6 inches long. The bark is from yellow-brown to cinnamon-red, and in large flat plates. The Ponderosa Pine is the good looking pine tree around the camp.





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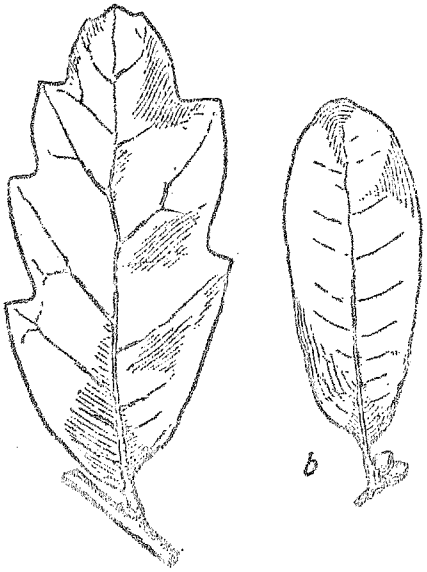
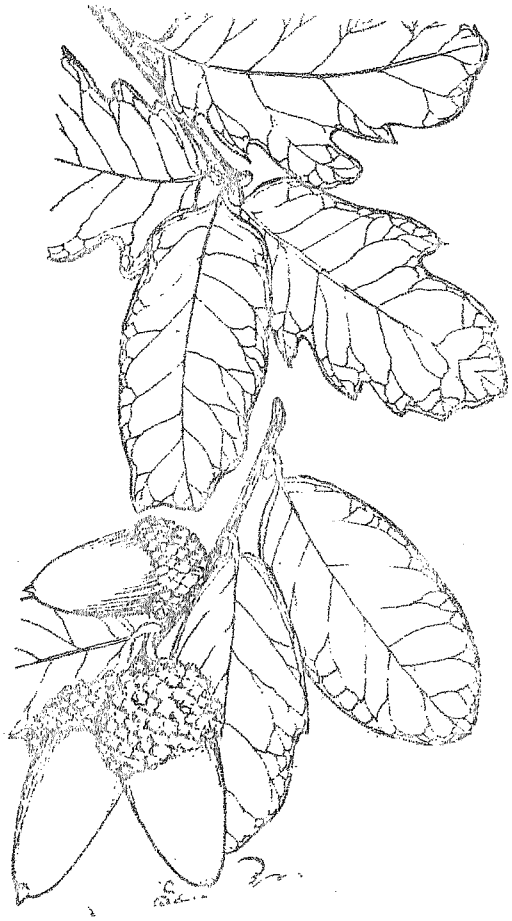
CALIFORNIA BLACK OAK
Quercus kelloggii

The Black Oak likes to be neighbors with the Ponderosa Pine tree. It too can be a dominant member of some forest communities.

The Black Oak has shiny, dark green, deeply lobed leaves. The tree can grow to 80 feet tall, but in this area they generally don't reach that height. The acorns were popular with the Indians for making their corn meal flour. The Indians had to leach out the tannen before using the flour.



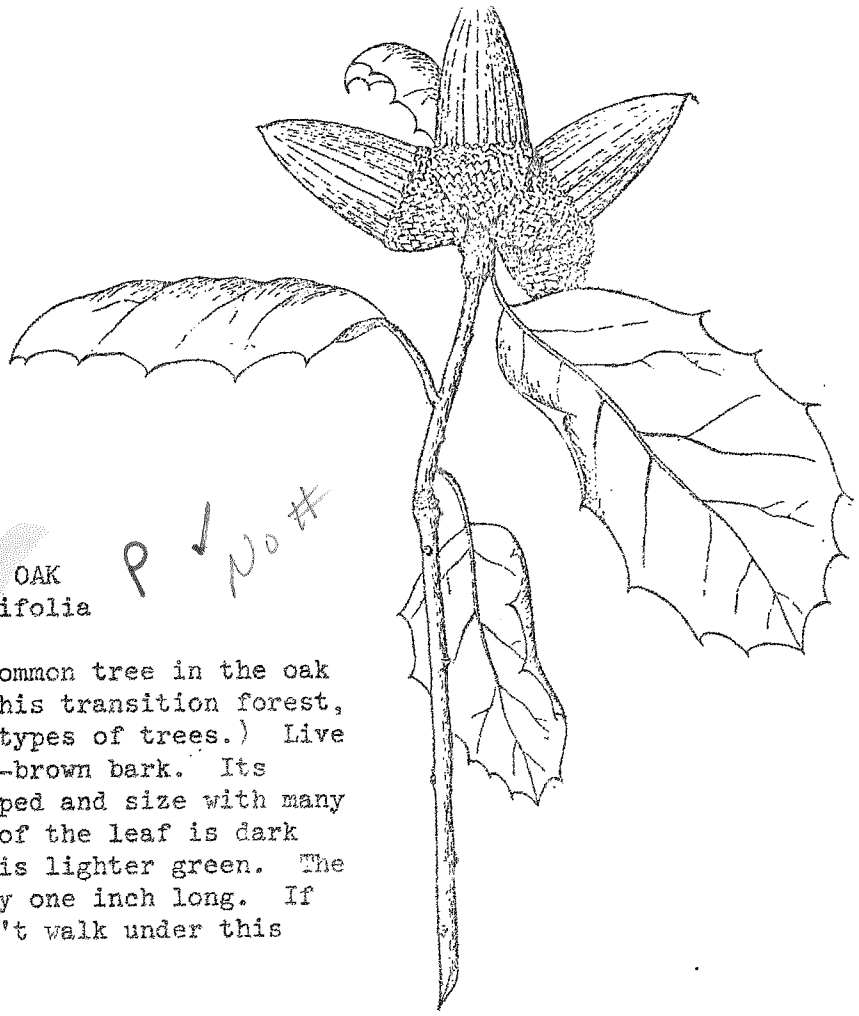


BLUE OAK
Quercus douglassii

The Blue Oak is a moderate sized oak tree, under 50 feet tall. Its leaves are blue green with shallow lobes. The acorns are thin and short. It is generally found in warm foothills around California. The main use for this tree is fuel and fence posts.

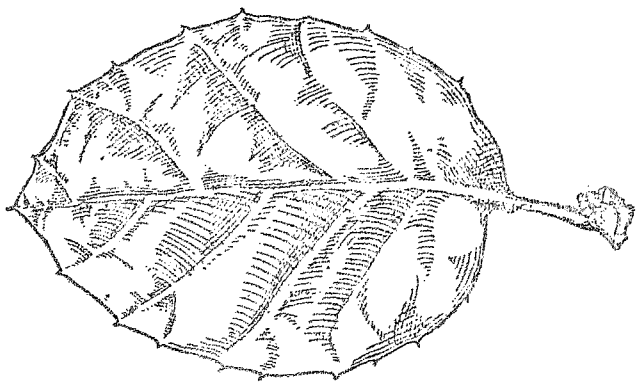
Note on intermixing-

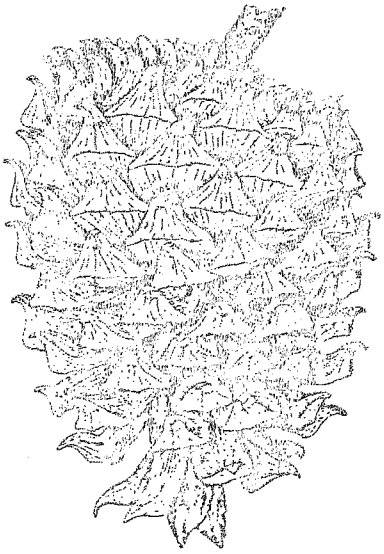
You've now seen a Black Oak, Blue Oak, and an Oregon Oak. Now there are oak trees around that are similar to these, but aren't the Black, Blue, or Oregon Oak. These oaks get mixed up. They cross pollenate and make new hybrid oak trees.



COAST LIVE OAK
Quercus agrifolia

This is the most common tree in the oak regions of Napa. (In this transition forest, it is just one of many types of trees.) Live Oaks have smooth, green-brown bark. Its leaves are teaspoon shaped and size with many jagged teeth. The top of the leaf is dark green while the inside is lighter green. The acorns are approximately one inch long. If you have soft feet, don't walk under this tree.





Digger Pine

P in High Chaparral

5

10

DIGGER PINE
Pinus sabiniana

The Digger Pine is a scruffy looking tree. It has long, grey green needles, up to 14 inches, that are in bunches of three. It has heavy chocolate colored cones that can be up to a foot long. The bark is heavy and furrowed.

The Digger Pine can grow to be 90 feet tall. It generally grows in dryer areas, and is not a good lumber tree. The Indians ate and stored the seeds in the cones.

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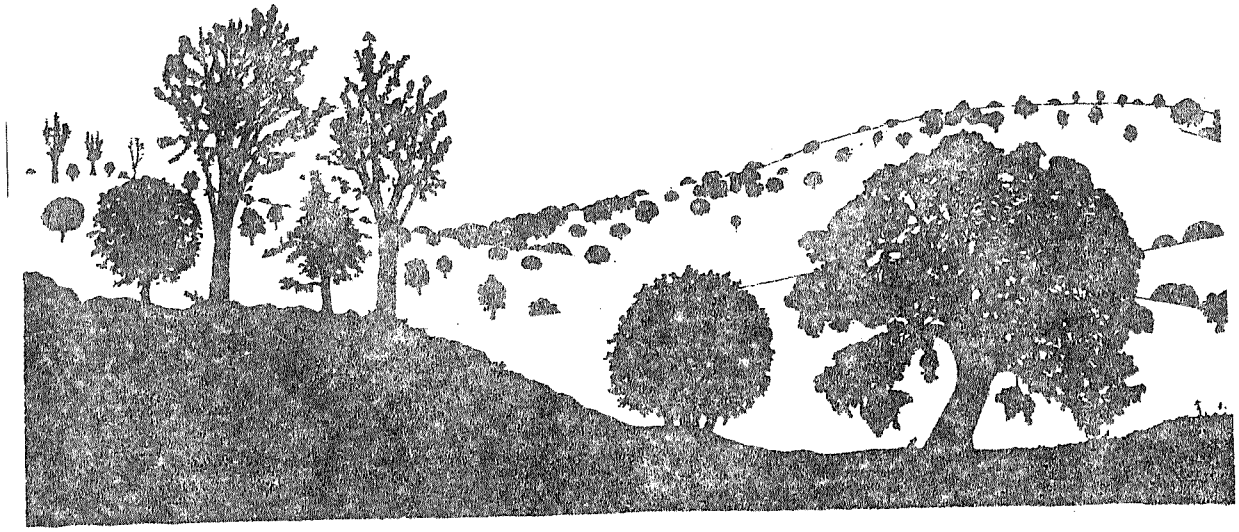
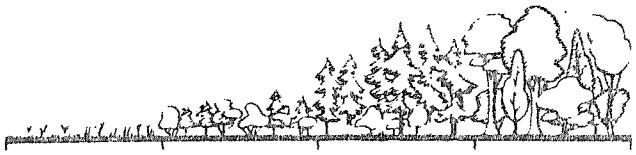
The High Chaparral



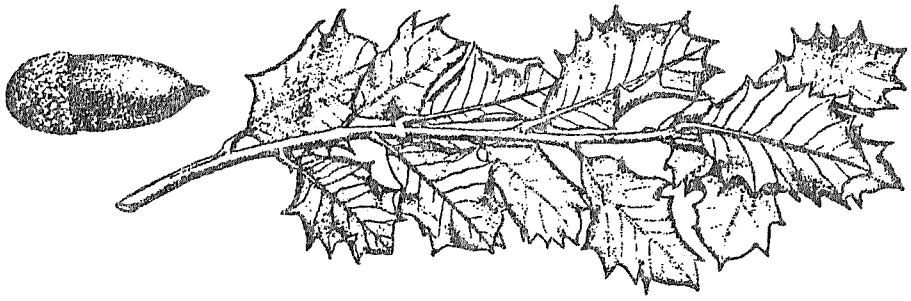


A CHAPARRAL OVERVIEW

The chaparral is the shrub capitol of the camp. As I will cover later, it is the chaparral area that feeds the wildlife. It is an area that can grow back vigorously after a fire. It is also an area that is exciting because it is where the "action" is in the forest.

There are three reasons the chaparral area is not popular to the hiker; (and should be very obvious) 1) the trees aren't "trees", they are bushlike, 2) the area is generally on the hot side of the hills and canyons. This makes days with even a moderate temperature hot in the chaparral, and 3) the shrubs of the chaparral are generally grey-green in color and leathery or tough to the touch.

So all in all the chaparral is not a pleasant place for people. See if you change your mind about the chaparral by the end of your hike!!



SCRUB OAK NP Quercus
Auercus dumosa

This is a little oak, which very seldom grows to tree size. It is generally a small, many branched shrub. The leaves are different in sizes, shapes, and are generally gray-green. The bush resembles holly. It grows back well after fires and is good deer food. Notice that it has many oak characteristics. Can you name some of them? Can you find any acorns on this shrub?