

- 1 Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*)
- 2 Subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*)
- 3 Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)
- 4 White Colorado Columbine (*Aquilegia coerulea* var. *ochroleuca*)
- 5 Tobacco root (*Valeriana occidentalis*)
- 6 Split-leaf paintbrush (*Castilleja rhexiifolia*)
- 7 Engelmann's aster (*Eucephalus engelmannii*)
- 8 Wasatch penstemon (*Penstemon cyananthus*)
- 9 Little sunflower (*Helianthella uniflora*)
- 10 Western sweetcicely (*Osmorhiza occidentalis*)
- 11 Splitleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza macrophylla*)
- 12 Letterman's needlegrass (*Achnatherum lettermanii*)
- 13 Scarlet gilia (*Ipomopsis aggregata*)
- 14 Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*)
- 15 Mountain brome (*Bromus marginatus*)
- 16 Sulphur-flower buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *unbellatum*)
- 17 Silky lupine (*Lupinus sericeus*)
- 18 Leafy jacobsladder (*Polemonium foliosissimum*)
- 19 Hood's sedge (*Carex hoodii*)
- 20 Sticky geranium (*Geranium viscosissimum*)
- 21 Horsemint (*Agastache urticifolia*)
- 22 Blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia parviflora*)
- 23 Tolmie owllover (*Orthocarpus tolmiei*)
- 24 Western wallflower (*Erysimum asperum*)
- 25 Mountain silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana* ssp. *viscidula*)
- 26 Fernleaf licorice-root (*Ligusticum filicinum*)
- 27 Tall larkspur (*Delphinium occidentale*)
- 28 Mountain coneflower (*Rudbeckia occidentalis*)
- 29 Mountain pennyroyal (*Monardella odoratissima*)
- 30 Alpine avens (*Geum rossii* var. *turbinatum*)
- 31 Brewer's cliffbrake (*Pellaea breweri*)
- 32 Bumblebee (*Bombus melanopygus*)
- 33 West Coast Lady (*Vanessa annabella*)
- 34 Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*)
- 35 Mormon Fritillary Butterfly (*Speyeria mormonia*)
- 36 Western Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio rutulus*)
- 37 Blue Copper Butterfly (*Lycæna heteronea*)
- 38 Police car moth (*Gnophaela vermiculata*)



Celebrating Wildflowers:
Our Unique Plant
Communities

TALL FORB COMMUNITY

of the INTERMOUNTAIN WEST

A Wildflower Wonderland

The Western narrative is one of spellbinding landscapes—a place of immense skies and majestic mountains where rivers arise and nourish the dry valleys below, a land of dreams and unfettered imagination. Nowhere is this more magnificent than in the subalpine parklands where remnant tall forb wildflower fields are strewn among the high plateaus and peaks of the Intermountain West.

The tall forb community has been described as one of the most beautiful and unique plant communities in the western mountains. It is characterized by a wild profusion of luxuriant, knee to shoulder-high wildflowers of every imaginable color and hue—blue, violet, pink, bright yellow, and white. Deep loamy soils and summer rainstorms nourish the myriad species competing for dominance. It is a landscape brimming with life— raptors, hummingbirds, butterflies, and in the words of poet Theodore Roethke, a “scene beloved of bees.”

Tall forb fields are geographically scattered along the subalpine mountain skylines of the interior West extending from the Montana-Idaho border in the north, east to the mountains of western Wyoming and south through Utah’s Wasatch Range and Plateau.

Ascend a mountain on a serene midsummer day. The late-July skies are luminous, a beautiful azure blue, the scent is sweet and earthy and a rare tapestry of nectar-filled blossoms awaits you— your cares evaporate, your spirit soars, the world feels new again and your heart quickens with joy—this is the tall forb experience!

Art and design by Steve Buchanan