

Camping Bingo

RULES: NO WALKING OFF TRAIL. TAKE ONLY PICTURES AND TRASH.

Animals



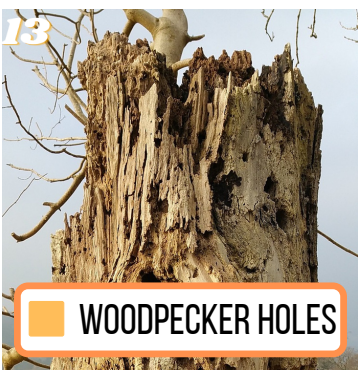
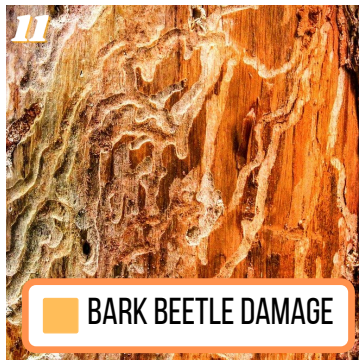
Humans



Health



Help



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1 CHICKADEE

One of the most common mountain forest birds, they are easy to find (but vary in species depending on location). They often seek humans out for scraps of food (don't give in!). They are also very vocal; their most famous sound is the one that gave the birds their name: a lively "chick-a-dee." They often repeat parts of the call, particularly the dee. They also have a call that sounds like "cheeseburger!"

2 TRAIL MAINTENANCE

A lot of work goes into making a good trail! Although often unseen, trail workers and volunteers work year-round to make trails safe, durable, and easy-to-use. Stairs, bridges, and signs are obvious evidence of their work, but most of it is harder to notice: removal of dangerous plants or trees that block the path, waterbars and drainage trenches to prevent flooding, switchbacks to prevent erosion, and more. Is this trail well-maintained, or does it need work?

3 PHRAGMITES (FRAG-MY-TEEZ)

It may look pretty, but this invasive outcompetes native plants (like cattails) and provides little or no food or shelter for most wildlife. Phragmites can also crowd waterways valued for recreation as well as habitats that offer refuge and feeding grounds for invertebrates, fish, and waterbirds. It is growing even more prolific as road salt raises the salinity of water bodies. It can be found in every state.

4 PICK UP 10 PIECES OF TRASH

The trash may not be yours, but this planet is! Get in the habit of carrying a trash bag with you outdoors so you can clean up your favorite areas while enjoying them - it's the easiest way to make a big difference. Nicotine and other chemicals make cigarette butts especially toxic pieces of trash - if you don't want your pet eating it, don't let wildlife have the opportunity either.

5 TRACKS

Pictured: canine tracks. How can you tell? A paw print with nail marks at the end of each toe tells us this is a dog; cats retract their claws when walking so they don't dull! Telling the difference between domestic and wild dog tracks is much harder. Did you see the tracks on trail? It's most likely that they're from a pet dog, but wildlife do use our trails too! For the same reason we like them, wildlife have a much easier time moving on trail than in the bush.

6 LOGGING

It can be hard to tell the difference between a tree cut for trail maintenance (because it was in the way or in danger of falling) and a tree cut for commercial use - most of the time telling the difference comes down to location and number of stumps. A large number of stumps not particularly near the trail - but often near parking lots, buildings, or other development - is a good indication these trees were logged for their material use or for the space.

7 TREE TRUNK BURL

Just like humans, trees have scars from times they were injured. This could happen from disease, insect damage, storm damage, a broken branch, or other blunt force trauma. It's a good thing though - like a protective scab or scar tissue over a wound. Also, burls store the same genetic material as the tree itself, so it's a way for a tree to clone itself. Thus, burls can be the basis for new trees to grow from fallen or cut trees.

8 CARRY A DIY FIRST AID KIT

Help yourself, your friends, and forest rangers by carrying your own DIY first aid kit. Store bought kits are good, but no one knows your needs like you do. Items like antiseptic wipes, absorbent gauze, latex gloves, tweezers, painkillers, antihistamines, and antidiarrheals are a good call for everyone, but ask yourself: should I carry a knee brace, extra inhaler, non-latex gloves, prescription medication, etc? You can never be too careful when you're outdoors!

9 SQUIRREL

Depending on your ecosystem, this may be way too easy. Forests are full of squirrels, but if you're lacking trees you might find a ground squirrel like prairie dogs or marmots. Bonus points for finding evidence of squirrels: a rattling screech could be a territorial red squirrel, a shredded pine cone is leftover dinner, or a bunch of twigs and leaves assembled in the fork of a tall tree could be a squirrel nest (or drey).

10 SHOE PRINT

Another easy one! But what else can you notice about this print? Is it embedded deep into the ground? This hiker likely walked on a muddy trail - not great for the trail, as you can see. Is it 1-5 feet off trail? On a crowded trail, hikers often step to the side to let others pass - an issue that causes the trail to widen as the bordering vegetation dies. If you're on snow, can you find a snow shoe or microspike tracks?

11 BARK BEETLE DAMAGE

What looks like a tiny racecar track is actually damage from one of the biggest problems ever for tree mortality: bark beetles. They bore through the protective bark to lay their eggs, then feed on this living tissue, cutting off the tree's ability to transport nutrients. Shifts in temperatures and water stress from climate change has led to an increase in these damaging effects, especially in spruce, lodgepole, pinyon-juniper, and ponderosa forests.

12 KEEP YOUR DOG ON LEASH

We all love to have our dogs with us outdoors, and yours probably isn't the one who will attack wildlife. Even if your dog wouldn't hurt a fly, the unfortunate side effects of dogs outdoors are well-documented. Getting injured or killed, causing wildlife to avoid areas for days at a time, polluting water, spreading diseases... it's clear that our pups don't fit into this ecosystem the way their ancestors did. Keep your pet under control and supervision at all times.

13 WOODPECKER HOLES

If you're lucky, you might hear the drumming and see a flash of red as a woodpecker drills these holes in search of insects. They don't get headaches from this - while drilling, this bird wraps its tongue (which can be up to 4 inches long!) around the back of its head, between the skull and skin, to help absorb shock. Their tongues are also sticky (and sometimes barbed) to help them pull out insects they find in their holes.

14 LITTER

Litter is problematic for many reasons: it pollutes waterways, tarnishes the beauty of nature, and conditions wildlife to human food. This is easy to see from the chipmunks and blue jays that hover nearby when you eat your lunch. More dangerously, bears that get a taste of human food will try to get more: breaking into cars, ransacking campsites, etc. Sadly, these bears often need to be put down. Pack out your litter to keep everyone safe!

15 BURNED TREES

Many ecosystems benefit from periodic fires; they can clear out dead materials and stimulate new growth. Land managers even set controlled fires to prevent larger fires. But not all fires are good - the massive, intense fires that you hear about in the news burn out of control, causing evacuations. They can also burn land so badly it won't recover. Camp far away from trees that look like those pictured, they could fall at any time.

16 PROPERLY PUT OUT YOUR FIRE

You can use less water and put out a fire more thoroughly with the proper technique:

- Dump water on it, including edges
- Use a stick to stir ashes with wet soil
- Feel the coals and leftover wood
- Repeat until no part of the fire ring is too hot to touch

Only you can prevent forest fires!

References

OWNERSHIP

Created by Courtney Garrity for ZOO 5890-08 at University of Wyoming in Spring 2021.

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