

# Oregon White Oak In Many Forms

In the East Cascades, oaks adapt using different growth forms. Each unique form helps oaks overcome stressors and offer different habitat values to wildlife. Despite their appearance, **they are all the same species** (*Quercus garryana*)! In all forms oaks offer shelter, shade, and acorns that birds, mammals, and people depend on.



## single stem

The iconic single stem oak is the classic oak silhouette that people tend to prefer over other forms.

The often hollow insides of large, single stem oaks provide cavities for nesting squirrels and birds. The leafy crowns provide space for flycatchers to maneuver. Their riffled bark houses invertebrates and bats.



## clonal

Oaks may occur in clonal groups. This is especially common when an oak is cut and then resprouts and conditions support it growing new stems. It is a testament to their tenacity and resilience!

In this form they prevent soil erosion, sequester carbon, and offer habitat values to birds and invertebrates.



## shrubby

Shrubby oaks, often called scrub oaks, occur on windswept slopes (also called "krummholz") or in places where cutting, high intensity fire, or extensive browsing occur. This form helps them survive when moisture is limited.

Many birds, invertebrates, and small mammals prefer the cover provided by this type of oak habitat.



## snag

A snag is a term for a tree that has died but remains standing. Even after an oak dies, it still provides unique habitat features for wildlife.

As wood decays, it becomes food for insects and invertebrates that support birds and wildlife. Cavities in snags are used by owls and woodpeckers. Birds of prey love using snags as a perch from which to hunt.