common juniper and western juniper in northwest California

Range* of *Juniperus communis* and *Juniperus occidentalis* in Northwest California

* based on Griffin and Critchfield (1976) and personal observation

common juniper

*Juniperus communis* var. *jackii*

- Bark: thin, reddish, and shreddy
- Needles: ¼”, dark green but sometimes with a reddish tint, growing in whorls of 3 around each stem; pronounced stomatal bloom on the top of the needles and “berry” cones typify this species
- Cones: Dioecious, ¼” diameter, berry-like, fleshy, bluish-black ripening to a glaucous blue-black, flesheness due to underdevelopment in cone. Habitat: severely exposed areas; generally on serpentine sometimes on granite with elevation

western juniper

*Juniperus occidentalis*

- Bark: gray-brown to reddish-brown, peeling to linear strips with shallow fissures and flattened ridges
- Needles: <3 mm, scale-like, distinct resin dots, needles rounded in older growth, pointed in new growth, dark green to greenish-gray
- Cones: both monoecious or dioecious, berry-like, fleshy, resinous, bluish-gray, glaucous, maturing in two years to ¼” diameter
- Habitat: dry, expanding, less than fifteen inches of rain per year, 0-9000 ft. Range: Scott Valley and Greenhorn Mountains in Klamath Mountains east through Modoc County and into Great Basin of eastern Oregon