

GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
BIG TREE WALK – GILA NATIONAL FOREST
(original document 1998)

The Big Juniper Tree is located on lands previously utilized as part of the historic Fort Bayard military reservation. Growing at 6,600 ft. in elevation, the **Big Tree** is located approximately five miles north of the Fort Bayard State Medical Center (Section 2, Range 13 W, Township 17 S). This alligator juniper, *Juniperus deppeana*, is ranked as the second largest tree of this species in North America. It is 70.0 inches in diameter, 18 feet 9 inches in circumference, the crown spread is 62 feet, and the height is 63 feet.

The parking lot is four miles north of the Medical Center on Forest Road 536, then just east 1/10 of a mile on Forest Road 929 at the heliport. The hike from the parking lot to the **Big Tree** is approximately another 2.5 miles on a winding, semi-difficult footpath and old 4-wheel drive road that is now closed to vehicles. The round trip will require 2.5 to 4 hours at a relaxed pace.

Preliminary Checklist of the Vegetation

Key: T=Tree S = Shrub H = Herb V = Vine

MONILOPHYTES (Ferns and Horsetails (*Equisetum*))

DENNSTAEDTIACEAE - Bracken Fern Family

Pteridium aquilinum – bracken fern H

ACROGYMNOSPERMS (formerly Gymnosperms) (Pine, Fir, Spruce, Juniper, *Ephedra*)

CUPRESSACEAE: Cypress Family

alligator juniper	<i>Juniperus deppeana</i>	T
one seed juniper	<i>Juniperus monosperma</i>	T

PINACEAE: Pine Family

piñon pine	<i>Pinus edulis</i>	T
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MONOCOTS

AGAVACEAE: Agavae Family

banana yucca	<i>Yucca baccata</i>	S
soaptree or palmilla	<i>Yucca elata</i>	S

COMMELINACEAE: Spiderwort Family

birdbill dayflower	<i>Commelina dianthifolia</i>	H
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POACEAE: Grass Family

cane bluestem	<i>Bothriochloa barbinodis</i>	H
side-oats grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	H
blue grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	H
hairy grama	<i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i>	H
Canadian wild rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	H
vine mesquite	<i>Hopia obtusa</i>	H
ring muhly	<i>Muhlenbergii torreyi</i>	H
witchgrass	<i>Panicum capillare</i>	H

EUDICOTS**ASTERACEAE: Aster Family**

Carruth's sagebrush	<i>Artemesia carruthii</i>	S
western ragweed	<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	H
California brickelbush	<i>Brickellia californica</i>	S
wild cosmos	<i>Cosmos parviflorus</i>	H
fleabane	<i>Erigeron sp.</i>	H
yellow blanketflower	<i>Gaillardia pinnatifida</i>	H
snakeweed	<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	S
sunflower	<i>Helianthus sp.</i>	H
bahia	<i>Hymenothrix dissecta</i>	H
Wright's thimblehead	<i>Hymenothrix wrightii</i>	H
slender goldenweed	<i>Xanthisma gracilis</i>	H
tansy aster	<i>Machaeranthera tanacetifolia</i>	H
blackfoot daisy	<i>Melampodium leucanthum</i>	H
lemonweed, limoncillo	<i>Pectis angustifolia</i>	H
straw everlasting	<i>Pseudognaphalium stramineum</i>	H
sanvitalia, Abert's dome	<i>Sanvitalia abertii</i>	H
threadleaf groundsel	<i>Senecio flaccidus</i>	S
Missouri goldenrod	<i>Solidago missouriensis</i>	H
cowpen daisy	<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>	H
plains zinnia	<i>Zinnia grandiflora</i>	H

BRASSICACEAE: Mustard Family

peppergrass	<i>Lepidium thurberi</i>	H
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CACTACEAE: Cactus Family

cane cholla	<i>Cylindropuntia imbricata</i>	S
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CUCURBITACEAE: Melon Family

buffalo gourd	<i>Cucurbita foetidissima</i>	H
FABACEAE: Legume Family		
white prairie clover	<i>Dalea occidentalis</i>	H
Cooley's bundleflower	<i>Desmanthus cooleyi</i>	H
white sweet-clover	<i>Melilotus albus</i>	H
FAGACEAE: Oak Family		
Gambel Oak	<i>Quercus gambelii</i>	T
Gray Oak	<i>Quercus grisea</i>	S/T
GARRYACEAE: Silktassel Family		
Wright silktassel	<i>Garrya wrightii</i>	S
JUGLANDACEAE: Walnut Family		
Arizona walnut	<i>Juglans major</i>	T
little walnut ??	<i>Juglans microcarpa???</i>	S
LOASACEAE: Loasa Family		
Blazing Star ??	<i>Mentzelia (albicaulis?)</i>	H
MALVACEAE: Mallow Family		
scarlet globe mallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	H
globe mallow	<i>Sphaeralcea laxa</i>	H
NYCTAGINACEAE: Four O'Clock Family		
spiderling ??	<i>Boerhavia (coulteri??)</i>	H
Colorado four o'clock	<i>Mirabilis multiflora</i>	H
ONAGRACEAE: Evening Primrose Family		
scarlet gaura	<i>Oenothera suffretescens</i>	H
OROBANCHACEAE: Broomrape Family		
foothills paintbrush	<i>Castellija integra</i>	H
PAPAVERACEAE: Poppy Family		
prickly poppy	<i>Argemone pleiacantha</i>	H
POLEMONIACEAE: Phlox Family		
many flowered gilia	<i>Ipomopsis multiflora</i>	H
POLYGONACEAE: Buckwheat Family		
Wright buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum wrightii</i>	H

RANUNCULACEAE: Buttercup Family virgin's bower	<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>	V
ROSACEAE: Rose Family mountain mahogany Apache plume	<i>Cercocarpus breviflorus</i> <i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	S S
SALICACEAE: Willow Family Fremont cottonwood bluestem willow	<i>Populus deltoides</i> <i>Salix irrorata</i>	T S/T
SAPINDACEAE: Soapberry Family box elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	T
SCROPHULARIACEAE: Snapdragon/Figwort Family mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	H
SOLANACEAE: Nightshade Family purple nightshade	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	H
VISCACEAE: Mistletoe Family juniper mistletoe	<i>Phoradendron juniperium</i>	S
VITACEAE: Grape Family canyon grape	<i>Vitis arizonica</i>	V