

CONIFER CONNECT

Did you know the oldest, tallest and largest trees on Earth are all conifers? Conifers are also critical in our fight against climate change with research showing coniferous forests absorb two and a half times as much carbon from the atmosphere as broadleaf forests!

Here on the coast of the Salish Sea, we are in the heart of the largest temperate rainforest on Earth. From the Pacific coast of Alaska to northern California, it is dominated by conifers like western redcedar, Douglas-fir and Sitka spruce which grow to record sizes in our wet, mild climate. With a lush understory of decaying wood, moss, lichens, fungi, ferns and berry plants, these forests protect our precious watersheds and salmon-bearing streams. They are also home to endangered Pacific salamanders, Pacific tree frogs, slugs, deer, wolves, cougars and bears, including the endangered Kermode or spirit bear.

Explore this exhibit to learn about these cone-bearing trees and how we connect with conifers through food, medicine and culture.

