Forestry Challenge Tree ID Using a Key

Directions: Using a foliage sample (and cone, if available) of the tree you want to identify, start at the gray box and answer each question, which will move you to another box until you have identified the sample.

START HERE - Examine Leaves

The leaves are large, flat, and lobed – **CALIFORNIA BLACK OAK**

The leaves are needle like

The needles are single and grow directly from the branch

Needles are longer, rounded on the tips, and lay relatively flat on the branch; cones disintegrate on tree – **WHITE FIR**

Needles are shorter and arranged around the stem like a bottlebrush; cones are bristly and fall off the tree whole– **DOUGLAS FIR**

The needles are not in bundles

The needles are scale-like and multi-segmented

The needles are flat, not prickly, and scale-like; tree bark is red and fibrous – **INCENSE CEDAR**

The needles are flat, very prickly, and scale-like; tree bark is red and fibrous – **GIANT SEQUOIA**

The needles are in bundles

Each bundle has five short needles; large cones, 12 to 20 inches long – **SUGAR PINE**

Each bundle has three long, yellowish green needles; prickly cones 3 to 6 inches long – **PONDEROSA PINE**

Sample 1:

Sample 2:

Sample 3:

Sample 4:

Sample 5:

Sample 6:

Sample 7: