John’s Key to Blue Mountain Conifers

Start here

- All leaves needle-like
  - Needles clustered
    - Clusters of 2-5 needles
    - Clusters of 2 or 3 needles
    - Low to mid elevation WESTERN WHITE PINE
    - Clusters of 3 PONDEROSA PINE
  - Clusters of 10 or more needles (deciduous)

- Needles not clustered
  - Needles sharp
    - Needle margins roll under PACIFIC YEW
  - Needles not sharp
    - Needle margins not rolled under
      - Buds pointed
        - DOUGLAS-FIR
      - Buds not pointed
        - No bloom on upper surface of needle
          - GRAND FIR
        - White lines on both surfaces of needles
          - SUBALPINE FIR

- At least some leaves flattened and scale-like
  - Leaf scales have sticky resin dot
    - WESTERN JUNIPER
  - Leaf scales lack sticky resin dot
    - (Wallowa Valley)
    - ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER

See Trees to Know in Oregon for a more complete key