

# RESTORATION JUNIPER

Western Juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) is a native species that thrives in the arid climate of the high deserts of Central and Eastern Oregon, as well as many parts of Northern California. Characterized by its grey-green branchlets and blue, berry-like cones, most junipers are on the smaller side, typically reaching 12 to 45 feet tall.

Juniper is characterized by its beautiful grain patterns and warm cream and reddish tones. It performs exceptionally well outside (30+ years of rot resistance in ground-contact applications) and will last longer outdoors than today's second-growth western red cedar and redwood.

Juniper has several properties that make it unique and interesting to work with. It is prone to movement and bowing, as many woodworkers know, but it is also remarkably elastic: Bent boards can often be flexed back into straight lines. It also holds nails, screws, and staples better than fir or cedar, and yet often needs more than just wood glue along its edge to hold it in place.

## PEOPLE & PLANET

While juniper contributes to a scenic landscape, years of wildfire suppression have caused it to become an invasive species and take over what was formerly a high desert grassland ecosystem. Its out-of-control population growth, from about 1 million acres in the 1930's to more than 6 million acres today, and its thirst for limited water supplies, are leading to widespread erosion and a loss of biodiversity. As a result, many acres of juniper are now being cleared as part of a program to restore the native grassland ecosystem.

Sustainable Northwest Wood's Restoration Juniper is sourced from this program as we work to develop markets for this beautiful, durable, and useful wood while supporting sawmills in rural communities.



## SPECIES STATS

- » **Janka rating:** 665
- » **Lumber dimensions:**
  - 1X, 2X, 4X, 5X, and 6X full-dimension, rough lumber
- » **Recommended uses:**
  - Decking
  - Fencing
  - Raised beds, retaining walls, and outdoor structures