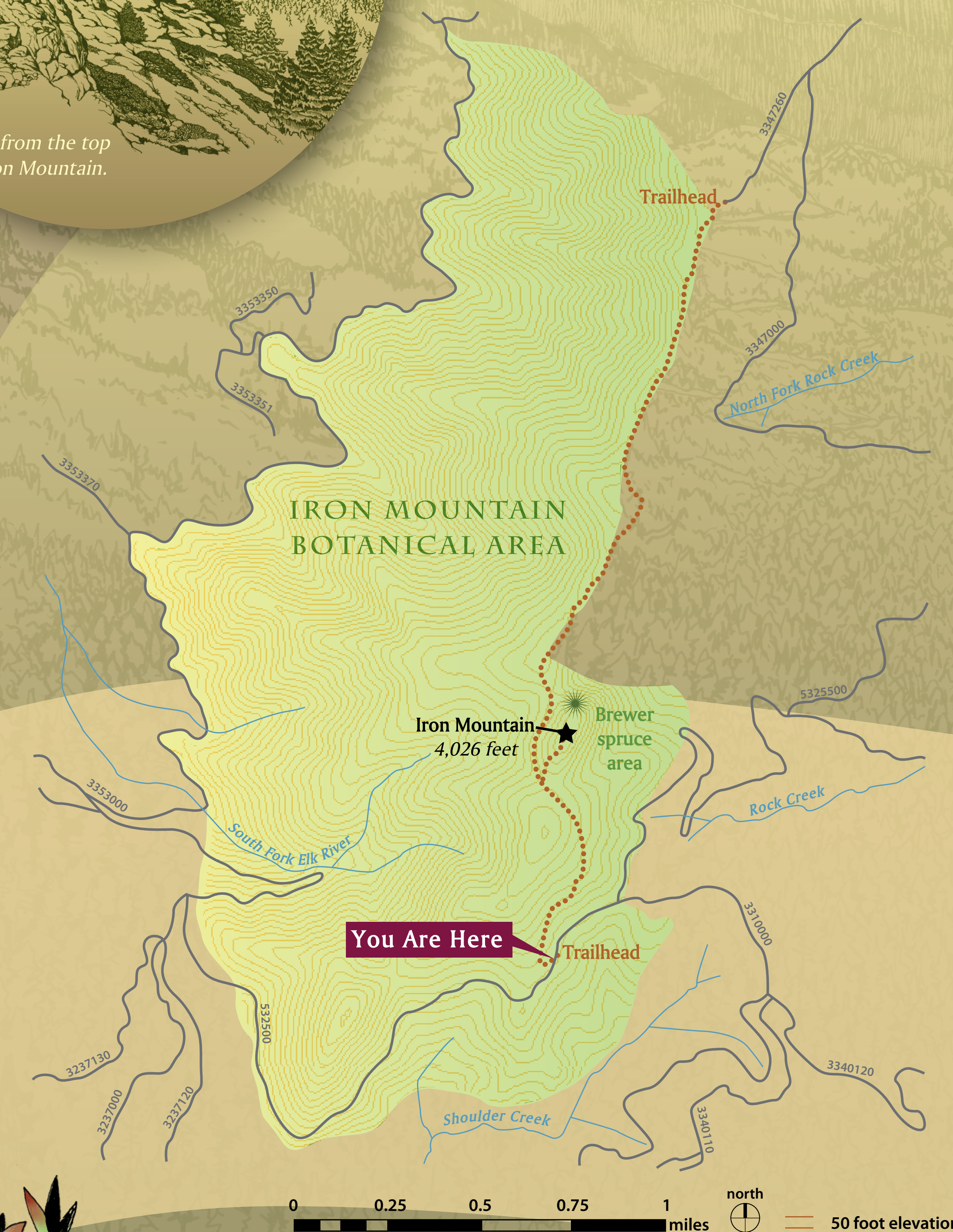


IRON MOUNTAIN BOTANICAL AREA



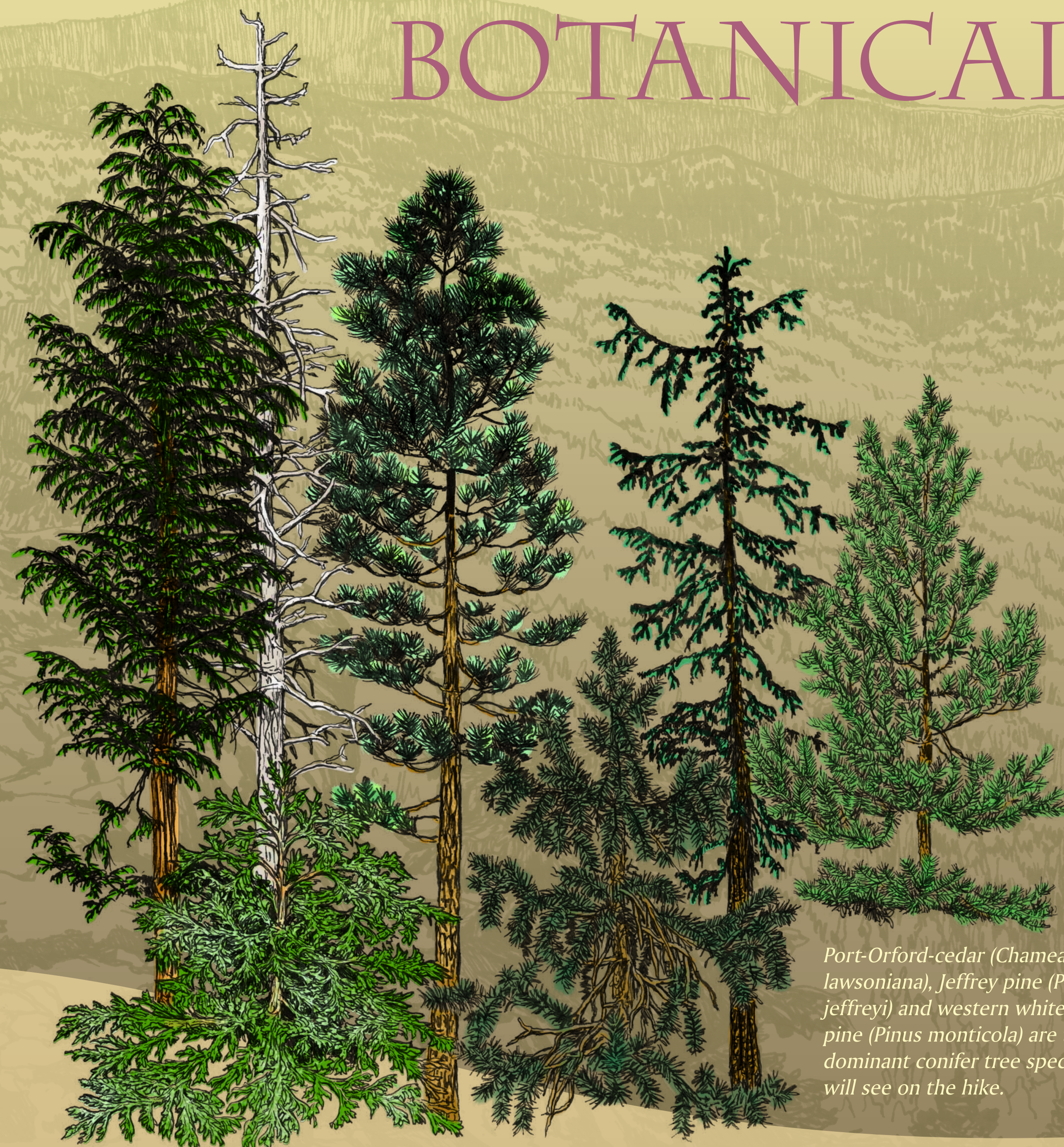
View from the top of Iron Mountain.



0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 miles north
50 foot elevation



Oregon-grape
Mahonia aquifolium



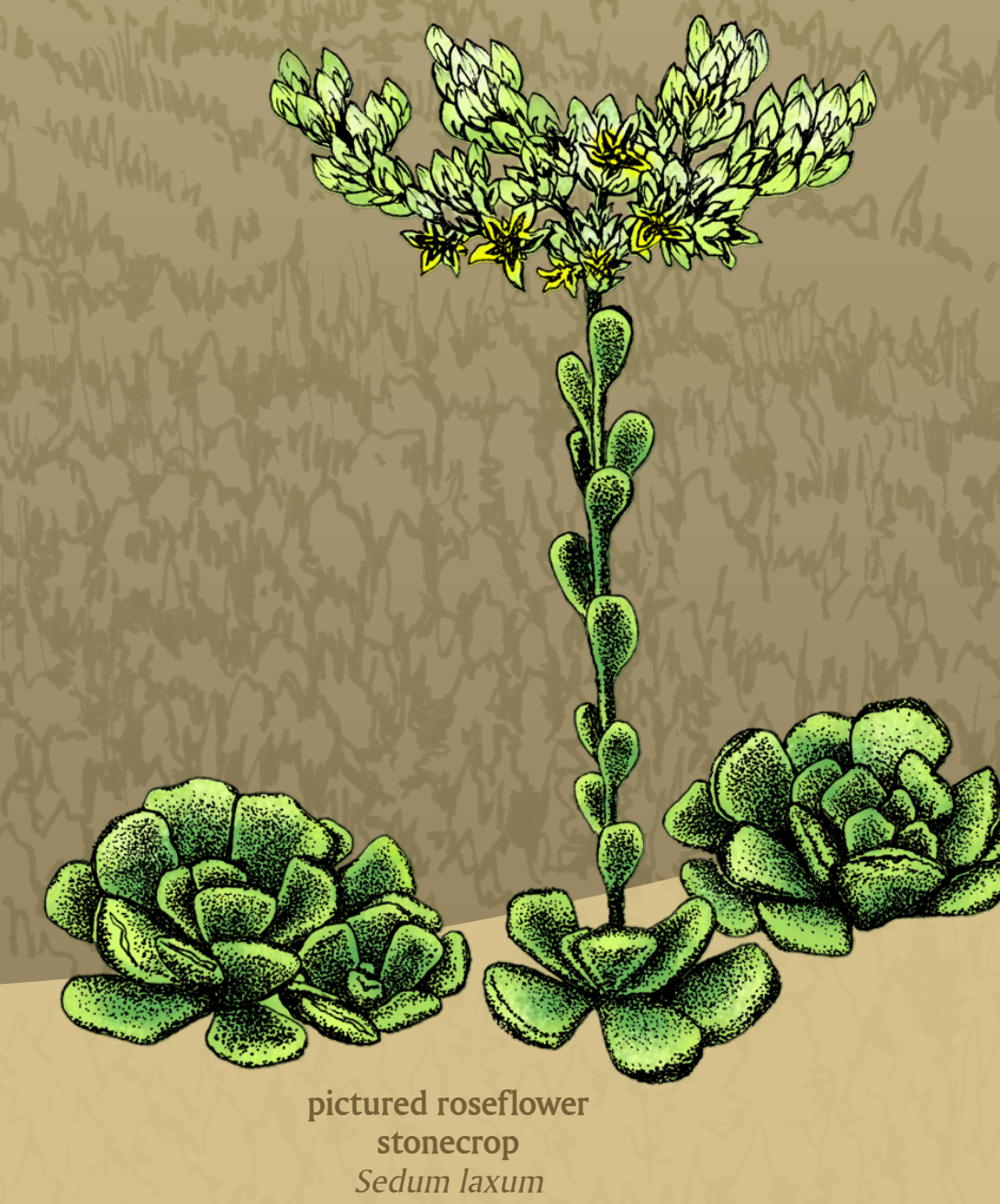
Port-Orford-cedar
Chamaecyparis lawsoniana

Jeffrey pine
Pinus jeffreyi

Brewer spruce
Picea breweriana

western white pine
Pinus monticola

Port-Orford-cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*), Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) and western white pine (*Pinus monticola*) are the dominant conifer tree species you will see on the hike.



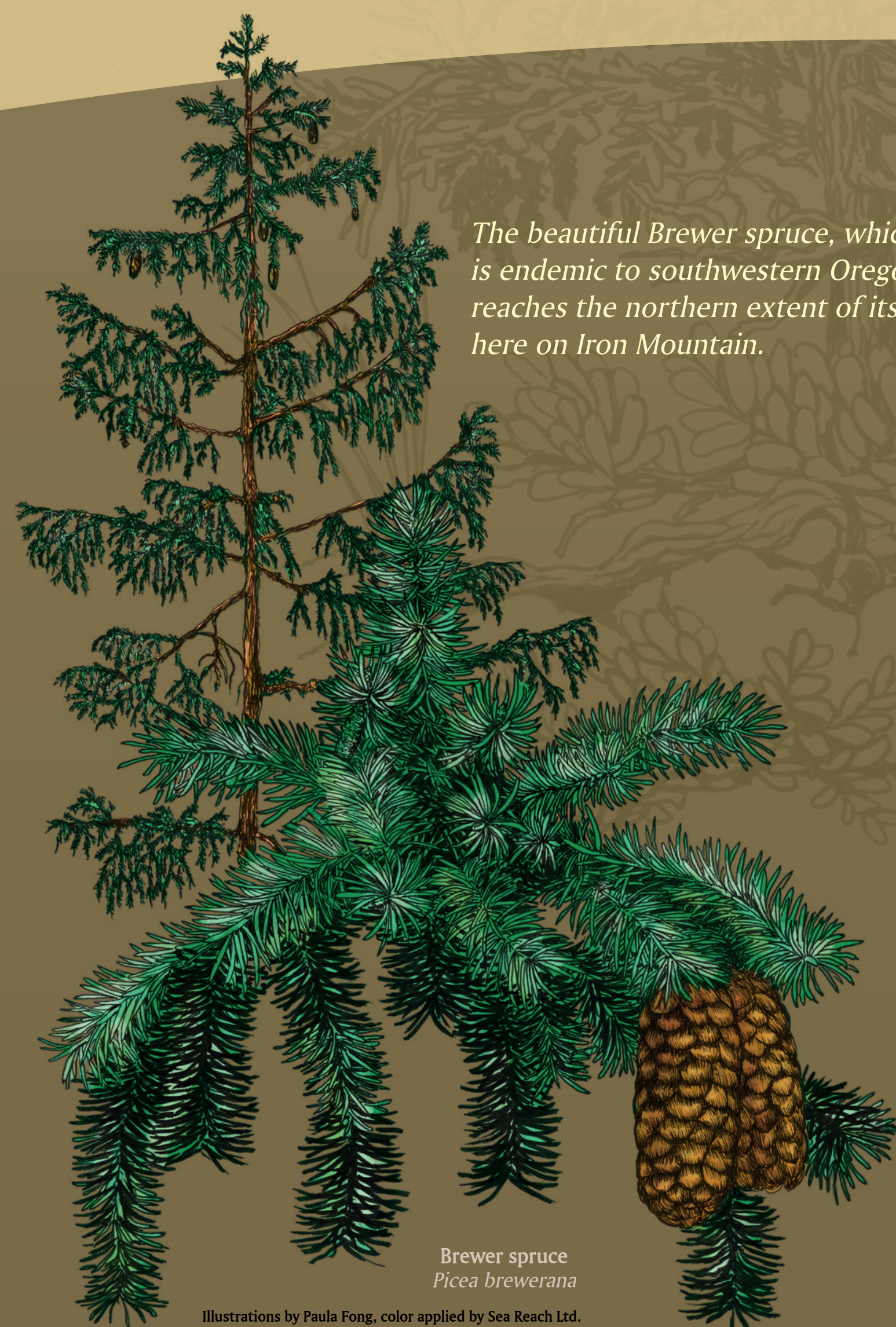
pictured roseflower stonecrop
Sedum laxum

ITS IN THE SOIL

At 4,000 feet elevation, Iron Mountain is one of the tallest mountains in the coast range. Geologically, it is composed of great intrusive masses of granitic rocks bordered by metamorphics such as serpentine, slate, and marble. Serpentine is rich in iron and magnesium, and can appear red or green depending upon the degree of reduction it has undergone. The presence of these minerals make plants work harder to grow in the soil. These soils are primarily responsible for the tremendous array of hardy plant life found here. The Iron Mountain Botanical Area is home to an outstanding range of over 300 documented plant species!

TWO WORLDS MEET

Plants from the northern range (Oregon and Washington) overlap with plants from the southern range (California), giving the Iron Mountain area a unique combination of plant species. In addition, several species such as the pictured roseflower stonecrop (*Sedum laxum*) are endemic to the Siskiyou Mountains—they only grow here and nowhere else in the entire world. Iron Mountain Botanical Area was designated in the early 1980s to protect and preserve its incredible botanical diversity.



The beautiful Brewer spruce, which is endemic to southwestern Oregon, reaches the northern extent of its range here on Iron Mountain.

Brewer spruce
Picea breweriana

Illustrations by Paula Fong, color applied by Sea Reach Ltd.



The shrub layer is usually dense with huckleberry oak (*Quercus vaccinifolia*), California coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*), and red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*).

Sadler oak
Quercus sadleriana

tanoak
Lithocarpus densiflorus

western azalea
Rhododendron occidentale

huckleberry oak
Quercus vaccinifolia

red huckleberry
Vaccinium parvifolium

California coffeeberry
Rhamnus californica

Myrtlewood
Umbellularia californica



California lady's slipper
Cypripedium californicum

Cobralily
Darlingtonia californica

Several rare plant species occur within the botanical area but will require off trail investigating to locate and observe. Within seeps and springs you are likely to find pitcherplants (*Darlingtonia californica*), California lady's slipper (*Cypripedium californicum*), and other odd species.

Enjoy the trail through the Iron Mountain Botanical Area. Preserve the past and protect the future by not disturbing the natural life around you. Pack out all trash, food, and litter. Be careful with campfires, and remember to put out your fire completely.