

February Hite Cove Wildflowers –
presented in the form of a puzzle, for children and adults
Prepared by Doug Krajnovich



1. I feel sad when people mistake me for the California State Flower.



2. I am the first (or second) wildflower to appear each year. I even beat the Filarees. Use my leaves to confirm ID.



3. You will find me on sunny days from late February into March. I fold up on cloudy days.



4. I am abundant and widespread, but people tend to miss my tiny flowers with adorable purple anthers. I am better known by my fruit.



5. I am a common member of the Carrot family – the first of my family to appear at Hite Cove.



6. I am the only non-native wildflower in this puzzle. Please don't hold it against me.



7. The botanists changed my name recently, but I am still the same old loveable flower.



8. You will only find me in dripping wet places.



9. I am just getting started. Come back in a couple of weeks and I'll play my violin for you.

February Hite Cove Wildflowers (cont'd.)



10. I am not widespread, but there is a shady, damp, rocky spot where I thrive every year.



11. I confess, I'm a tree. But I bloom early and have pretty flowers – don't you agree?



12. Since my flowers are only a few mm across, I am easy to miss, but I am quite common. Once you get to know me, you will spot me in many different places, including Yosemite.



13. I am the only member of my genus that occurs at Hite Cove. The flowers of my sister species look much the same, but our leaves will help you tell us apart.



Hite Cove can be accessed from Redbud Lodge or Cedar Lodge on Hwy. 140. Most people use the trail marked in red, which runs parallel to the South Fork of the Merced River. This is an out-and-back walk. The distance from the trailhead to the old mining settlement is roughly 4 miles one-way / 8 mi. round-trip, but you can turn around whenever you like. The red trail is “front-end loaded,” with many species represented in the first $\frac{3}{4}$ mile.

A longer (and tougher) option is to leave a shuttle car at the Redbud, start at Cedar Lodge, walk up and over Pinoche Ridge (orange and yellow), then exit via the south fork (red). If you haven't been to Hite Cove, familiarize yourself with the red trail first. It is in excellent condition. The yellow trail still has one sketchy section due to damage from the 2018 Ferguson Fire.

All of the flowers in this puzzle were seen on the red trail on February 20. All except #2 should persist until the end of March or later. An answer key will accompany the April Newsletter.