CHAPTER FIVE

Inventory of Ute Traditional-Use Plants

THIS STUDY IS focused on the identification of culturally important plants within the BPMD and how they are used by Ute people. The study is informed in part by more than a century of Ute cultural and natural resource studies as well as through interviews with Ute tribal participants. The protocols for collecting ethnographic information have evolved over the past century from a beginning in salvage ethnography that was often exploitative and had little community review or informed consent, to a community-based participatory approach. In our work, we draw upon previously published materials to provide baseline data that our contemporary tribal colleagues could review, correct, and update. The Southern Ute Tribe requested a full review of previously conducted research pertaining to Ute traditional use plants to create a baseline for the tribe's future consultation and educational efforts.

Specifically, this study relies on several key research projects that included ethnobotanical information. For the Ute Indian Tribe, the *Ethnography of the Northern Utes* (Smith 1974), the summary report of the Ute Ethnobotany Project (Chapoose and others 2012; McBeth and others 2008), and the article "Some Plant Names of the Ute Indians" (Chamberlin 1909) provided the majority of information about Ute plants and names. Three projects that included information about all three Ute tribes were also used, including an ethnographic overview of Chimney Rock National Monument (Hopkins and others 2020), a traditional use study at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (Kelley and others 2019), and an ethnographic and ethnobotanical survey of the United States Air Force Academy (Kelley and others 2017). The chapter on the Utes written for the *Handbook of North American Indians* (Callaway and others 1986), and an ethnographic overview of the Utes of west-central Colorado (Burns 2003) also provided significant ethnobotanical information. Information was also gathered during research at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose, Colorado, during the current project.

Research specific to the Southern Ute Tribe included a National Park Study on the Old Spanish Trail (Stoffle and others 2008), as well as consultation records and interpretative material generated for the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (Naranjo 1997; Ruppert 1996). Research specific to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe includes the recently completed *Ute Mountain Ute Traditional Cultural Property Survey of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project* (Living Heritage Anthropology and others 2019). Several reports discuss how Ute cultural perceptions of the landscape differ from non-Native viewpoints, and how Ute people are uniquely qualified to identify, interpret, and evaluate landscapes and resources that are culturally significant to them (Burns 2003; Callaway and others 1986; Hopkins and others 2020; and McBeth 2019).

Ute orthography has evolved over the last century. In this report, we use the orthography used during the original research when the information was collected. The standardization of Ute orthography was beyond our scope of work. Kroeber (1908), Chamberlin (1909:27–32), and Sapir (1930a, 1930b, and 1931) made early attempts to transcribe the Ute language. James Goss (1967 and 2000) began his study of the Ute language in 1961 and has contributed greatly to Ute orthography over the last half century. Ute terms documented during fieldwork for the present study were provided by and reviewed by tribal research participants for accuracy. Differences in dialect and spelling remain among families and within the three Ute tribes. Presently, the Southern Ute Tribe uses an orthography developed by Thomas Givón (2011, 2013a, and 2013b) as the official orthography of the tribe. Dr. Stacey Oberly, a linguist with

the Southern Ute Culture Preservation Department also provided updated translations and Ute terms. When the tribal origin of a Ute term is known, the Ute term is accompanied by a superscript with the following abbreviations: Southern Ute Indian Tribe=(S), Ute Indian Tribe=(N), Ute Mountain Ute Tribe=(M). Ute terms from two bands of the Ute Indian Tribe are abbreviated here as White River Band=(W) and Uncompahgre Band=(U).

This chapter discusses Ute traditional-use plants found within the study area. In addition to the information obtained through the literature review, Ute perspectives were documented during fieldwork in the study area designed to elicit Ute information about the cultural significance of plants, including seasonality of use, harvesting practices, and traditional management. A total of 202 plant species were identified through archival research. Forty of these plants were observed during fieldwork (Table 5.1). More traditional-use species are present in the study area but were not observed partly because of seasonal and site-specific conditions. Of the total plant species; 83 have edible plant parts; 52 have medicinal uses; 16 are used in basketry; 5 are used for fuel (firewood); 19 have ceremonial uses; 17 have utilitarian uses; 7 are used for shelter; 2 are poisonous and avoided; 2 are used for animal feed; 1 as an insect repellent; 2 as a trail marker; 4 are used for hygienic purposes; 7 for weaponry; 1 as a toy; and 46 have unspecified uses. The study team recognizes, however, that these categories capture only one dimension of the cultural significance of these plants. Utes view these plants as indicators of their aboriginal territory, active players in certain oral histories, and as a means of sustaining the life and health of Ute people. This list should also be viewed as incomplete, as Ute protocols for sharing cultural information have previously and continue to influence what information can be shared and documented. Even if a specific plant is not noted here, its very presence in the landscape makes it a part of the Ute cultural and aboriginal landscape and therefore is significant to Ute people.

Table 5.1. Ute Traditional-Use Plants Identified in Archival Research and Field Visits

Latin Name	*Common Name*	*Ute Name(s)*	*Traditional Use(s)*	*Plant Part(s) Used*	*Elevation Range*
Abronia fragrans	Snowball sand verbena	sa-gwam-six-ta-gwĭv(N)	Medicinal	Root; Flower	400–2000 m (1300–6560 ft)
*Achillea millefolium**	Yarrow	i-am'-sĭ-ta-gwĭv(N); quishee quish(S)	Medicinal	Leaf	0–3600 m (0–11800 ft)
Achnatherum hymenoides	Indian ricegrass	nuumuvopeeav(M)	Edible	Seed	1066–2286 m (3500–7500 ft)
Agastache pallidiflora	Bill Williams Mountain giant hyssop	—	Edible	Leaf	2133–3050 m (7000–10000 ft)
Agave parryi	Parry's agave	—	Edible	—	1524–2133m (5000–7000 ft)
Agoseris spp.	Agoseris; Chicory	añ-'ka-pi-sa-wats(N)	Edible	Leaf	1981–3050 m (6500–10000 ft)
*Agropyron cristatum**	Crested wheatgrass	—	Edible	—	1524–2743m (5000–9000 ft)
*Agrostis scabra**	Rough bentgrass	—	Basketry	—	1524–2895 m (5000–9500 ft)
Allium spp.*	Garlic	kwee cha see hooh(N); kwicha-sugu'a(S); patasi(S)	Edible	Bulb; Leaf	0–3500 m (0–11500 ft)
Allium spp.	Wild onion	wisi-sik^{w}u(W); soovweya(N); seevergravp(N); ceboila(N); badasi(N); kwicha-sugu'a(S); patasi(S); saqo-patasi(S); sigu'a(S)	Edible	Bulb; Leaf	0–3500 m (0–11500 ft)
Allium acuminatum	Taper tip onion	küñ-ka(N)	Edible	Bulb; Leaf	91–1493 m (300–4900 ft)

continued

Table 5.1. (continued)

Latin Name	*Common Name*	*Ute Name(s)*	*Traditional Use(s)*	*Plant Part(s) Used*	*Elevation Range*
Allium bisceptrum	Twin crest onion	küñ-ka(N)	Edible	Bulb; Leaf	1100–2987 m (3600–9800 ft)
Allium cernuum	Wild onion; Nodding onion	—	Edible	Bulb; Leaf	600–3500 m (1950–11500 ft)
Allium geyeri	Geyer's onion	soovweya(N)	Edible	Bulb; Leaf	1524–3050 m (5000–10000 ft)
Allium schoenoprasum	Wild chives	kwechusagoot(N); phutus(N)	Edible	Leaf	0–3500 m (0–11500 ft)
Amaranthus powellii	Green amaranth	—	Edible	Leaf; Seed	0–2500 m (0–8202 ft)
Amaranthus retroflexus	Red root amaranth	—	Edible	Leaf; Seed	0–2500 m (0–8202 ft)
Amelanchier alnifolia	Serviceberry; Juneberry	jewap(S); joowump(S); to-ûmp'(N); toowump(S); tuwa̲=pɨ(W)	Edible	Fruit	1371–2743 m (4500–9000 ft)
Amsinckia tessellate	Bristly fiddleneck	tu'-ka-rûmp(N)	Unspecified	—	0–1524 m (0–5000 ft)
Antennaria dimorpha	Low pussytoes	tim'-pĭn-tsau-ûv(N)	Unspecified	—	600–3400 m (1950–11150 ft)
*Apocynum cannabinum**	Indian hemp	—	Utilitarian	—	1524–3050 m (5000–10000 ft)
Arabis holboellii	Holboell's rockcress	qta'-ko-mav(N)	Unspecified	—	1828–275 m (6000–9000 ft)
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi**	Bearberry; Kinnikinnick; Wild tobacco	tahmahup(N)	Ceremonial; Medicinal	Leaf	0–3100 m (0–10170 ft)
*Arnica mollis**	Soft arnica	—	Medicinal	Root	1000–4000 m (3280–131253 ft)
Artemisia spp.	Sage	sahwa-vu̲(S); saghwa-pu̲(S); sahwovf(N); sahwavf(N)	Medicinal	Leaf; Stem; Flower; Seed	760–3000 m (2490–9840 ft)
*Artemisia frigida**	Fringed sage	—	Medicinal	Leaf; Stem	500–3000 m (1640–9842 ft)
Artemisia ludoviciana	Western mugwort	—	Medicinal	Leaf; Stem	760–2590 m (2500–8500 ft)
Artemisia tridentata	Big sagebrush	ma-av(N); ma-ap(N); sahwovf(N); meap(N)	Medicinal	Leaf; Stem	1524–2438 m (5000–8000 ft)
Asclepias spp.*	Milkweed	sa-na'-ko-mav(N); teeyahnuhkov(N)	Medicinal	—	—
Ascomycota (Phylum)	Lichen	—	Medicinal	—	—
Asparagus officinalis	Asparagus	-	Edible	Shoot	0–2500 m (0–8202 ft)
Astragalus iodanthus	Humboldt River milkvetch; Buffalo bean	ti'-wĭ-pĭtcûm-av(N)	Unspecified	—	—
Atriplex canescens	Four-wing salt brush	—	Unspecified	—	100–1981 m (300–6500 ft)

Table 5.1. (continued)

Latin Name	*Common Name*	*Ute Name(s)*	*Traditional Use(s)*	*Plant Part(s) Used*	*Elevation Range*
Balsamorhiza sagittata	Arrow leaf balsamroot	—	Edible	—	1000–3000 m (300–9842 ft)
Beckmannia syzigachne	American slough grass	a-wat'-o-gwĭv[N]	Unspecified	—	1200–2700 m (4000–9000 ft)
Berberis repens	Oregon grape; Barberry	ksĭp-o-a-ats[N]	Medicinal; Edible	Root; Fruit	1524–2591 m (5000–8500 ft)
Betula occidentalis	Birch	?pa-gwai'ûv[N]	Unspecified	—	1676–2438 m (5500–8000 ft)
Bryophyta (Division)	Moss	pa̲sagho-vu̲[S]	Hygiene	Whole plant	—
Calochortus gunnisonnii	Mariposa lily	—	Edible	Bulb	900–2700 m (3000–9000 ft)
Calochortus nuttallii	Sego lily	si'go[N]; sik^{w}u[N]; cikwu[W]; see wus ago[N]	Edible	Bulb; Seed; Flower	1372–2438 m (4500–8000 ft)
Carex spp.	Sedge	pi'-gwûts[N]; pa'-gwûts[N]	Unspecified	Bulb	
Castilleja spp.	Paintbrush	'aka-sée'a-pu̲[S]; pia-sée'mi-'napu̲[S]; uka-si-ti[N]; ?uka-si=ti[U]; changon-nuhu-nup[N]	Utilitarian	—	—
*Castilleja occidentalis**	Western yellow paintbrush	—	Edible	Flower	—
Castilleja integra	Whole leaf paintbrush	—	Edible	Flower	1372–3200 m (4500–10500 ft)
Castilleja parviflora	Mountain paintbrush	mo'-ten-aĭt[N]	Medicinal	—	—
*Castilleja rhexifolia**	Splitleaf Indian paintbrush	—	Edible	Flower	—
*Celtis reticulata**	Netleaf hackberry	—	Weaponry	Wood	305–2286 m (1000–7500 ft)
Cercocarpus montanus	Mountain mahogany	tu-have[M]	Edible; Medicinal; Weaponry	Stem	1300–2200 m (4500–7000 ft)
Chenopodium spp.	Lamb's quarters	—	Edible	Leaf; Stem	—
Cirsium spp.	Thistle	—	Edible	Shoot	—
Cladonia spp.	Reindeer lichen	—	Unspecified	—	—
Claytonia megarhiza	Spring beauty	noogkachoon[N]; noowhchoon[N]; nooglacachoon[N]	Edible	Bulb	—
Cleome serrulata	Rocky Mountain bee plant	—	Edible; Medicinal	Leaf; Seed	914–2896 m (3000–9500 ft)
Collinsia parviflora	Blue-eyed Mary	mi'-pû^{n}-ga-shi"-ĕts[N]	Medicinal	—	900–2700 m (3000–9000 ft)
Comandra umbellata	Pale bastard toadflax	sa-gwa-si-ûn-gûts[N]	Medicinal	Root	152–2591 m (500–8,500 ft)
Cornus sericea	Redosier dogwood; Kinnikinnick; Red willow	a-va-tu-tûm-bûtc-ûm-av[N]; kaib'-o-gwĭv[N]; kai'-sĭv[N]	Basketry	Stem	1372–3048 m (4500–10000 ft)

continued

Table 5.1. (continued)

Latin Name	*Common Name*	*Ute Name(s)*	*Traditional Use(s)*	*Plant Part(s) Used*	*Elevation Range*
Crataegus rivularis	River hawthorn	—	Weaponry	Wood	1300–2300 m (4265–7545 ft)
Cryptantha sericea	Silky cryptantha	yu'-bi-shad-ûmp[U]	Medicinal	Root	—
Cymopterus longipes	Long stalk spring parsley	o-an-tûv[N]	Edible	Leaf	—
Cystopteris fragilis	Brittle bladder fern	tĭm-pĭm-ûv[N]	Unspecified	—	1524–3658 m (5000–12000 ft)
Datura wrightii	Sacred datura	'unu-pu-vu[S]	Medicinal	—	300–1980 m (1000–6500 ft)
Daucus carota	Wild carrot	yepuhch[N]	Edible	Root	—
Descurainia pinnata	Western tansy mustard	po-e'-tcĕm-ĕn[N]	Medicinal	—	0–2438 m (0–8000 ft)
Distichlis spicata	Salt grass	—	Medicinal	Leaf	0–1829 m (0–6000 ft)
Draba nemorosa	Woodland draba	kus-pa-sen-di-ät[N]	Unspecified	—	0–2700 m (0–8858 ft)
Eleocharis palustris	Common spike rush	pa-on-ga-da-pĭn-tĭd[N]	Unspecified	—	1067–3048 m (3500–10000 ft)
Elymus canadensis	Canada wildrye	o-do-rûm-bĭv[N]	Edible	Seed	914–2743 m (3000–9000 ft)
Ephedra viridis	Mormon tea; Indian tea	tutu-pu vu[S]; nukpii[N]	Medicinal; Beverage	Stem	762–2591 m (2500–8500 ft)
Equisetum arvense	Field horsetail; Common horsetail	tu-ko-wûts[N]; to-tsi-wats[N]	Unspecified	—	1372–2743 m (4500–9000 ft)
Equisetum hyemale	Scouringrush horsetail	—	Unspecified	—	762–2591 m (2500–8500 ft)
Equisetum laevigatum	Smooth scouring rush	ya-a'-ti-nûmp[N]	Medicinal; Edible; Utilitarian; Toy	Stem	914–2438 m (3000–8000 ft)
Ericameria nauseosa	Rubber rabbitbrush	saku-pu[S]	Ceremonial; Utilitarian	Flower	610–2440m (2000–8000 ft)
Erigeron canus	Hoary fleabane	?sa-gûm-sĭ-ta-gwĭv[N]	Unspecified	—	1700–2700 m (5577–8858 ft)
Eriogonum spp.	Buckwheat; Cushion buckwheat	k'sûm-sêd-au-ge-ĕts[N]	Medicinal	—	—
Erysimum asperum	Western wallflower	sa'-go-a''-sĭnt[N]	Unspecified	—	0–1981 m (0–6500 ft)
*Fragaria vesca**	Strawberry	twes[N]; tuwisi[W]; tuvwisi[S]	Edible	Fruit	1800–3400 m (6000–11000 ft)
Fraxinus spp.	Ash	wa'apu-pu[S]	Fuel	Wood	—
Fritillaria atropurpurea	Spotted fritillary	kai'-rûm-sĭ-ta-gwĭv [N]	Medicinal	Bulb	1400–2700 m (4500–9000 ft)
Fritillaria pudica	Yellow fritillary	pim'-ĭ-kwi-ĕts[N]	Edible	Bulb	0–2100 m (0–6889 ft)
Fungi (Kingdom)	Puff ball mushroom	—	Ceremonial	—	—

Table 5.1. (continued)

Latin Name	Common Name	Ute Name(s)	Traditional Use(s)	Plant Part(s) Used	Elevation Range
Glaux maritima	Sea milkwort	tsûn'-a-na-di-ĕts[N]	Unspecified	—	—
Grayia spp.	Hop sage	?sa'-mûv[N]	Unspecified	—	—
Grindelia nuda	Curlytop gumweed	—	Medicinal	Flower; Root	200–2900 m (656–9514 ft)
*Grindelia squarrosa**	Curlycup gumweed	ku-ats-ûm-sĭ-ta-gwĭv[N]	Medicinal	Flower; Root	200–2900 m (656–9514 ft)
Gutierrezia spp.	Snakeweed	shpûmp[N]; gudereria[N]	Unspecified	—	—
Hedysarum boreale	Utah sweet vetch	kai-va-ma-mû-tca-kwûv[N]; mo'-tĕm-be-ĭtch[N]	Medicinal	Root	1800–2900 m (6000–9500 ft)
Helianthus spp.	Sunflower	ahkoop[N]; ?ak^{w}u̲=pi̱[N]; ?ukwu=pi̱[W]; kú-pu̲[S]	Edible	Seed; Flower; Leaf; Root	—
Hierochloe odorata	Sweetgrass	—	Ceremonial	Leaf	—
Ipomopsis aggregata	Scarlet gilia	—	Edible; Utilitarian	Flower; Whole plant	1524–2591 m (5000–8500 ft)
Ipomopsis longiflora	Flaxflowered gilia	—	Edible	Flower	457–2134 m (1500–7000 ft)
Iva axillaris	Poverty weed	tam-ĕs'-ta-gwĭv[N]; ta-ma-sĭ-ta-gwĭv[N]	Medicinal	—	10–2500 m (32–8202 ft)
Juncus balticus	Baltic rush	pau-wûv[N]	Ceremonial	Stem	1066–2895 m (3500–9500 ft)
Juncus ensifolius	Swordleaf rush	—	Basketry	Stem	453–3048 m (1500–10000 ft)
*Juncus parryi**	Parry rush	—	Basketry	Stem	1500–4000 m (4921–13123 ft)
Juniperus spp.	Juniper; Cedar	pawa-pu̲[S]; wahuhp[N]	Edible; Ceremonial; Medicinal	Needle; Cone	—
Juniperus communis	Common juniper	wahup[M]	Edible; Weaponry	Cone; Wood	0–3400 m (0–11200 ft)
Juniperus deppeana	Alligator juniper	bawahup[N]	Unspecified	—	1372–3048 m (4500–10000 ft)
Juniperus monosperma	One-seed juniper	—	Ceremonial	Leaf	914–2134 m (3000–7000 ft)
Juniperus osteosperma	Utah juniper	wahup[N]	Edible	Cone	800–2600 m (2600–9000 ft)
Juniperus scopulorum	Rocky Mountain juniper	wahup[S,N]; po wap[S,M]	Ceremonial; Edible; Weaponry	Needle; Cone; Wood	1067–2743 m (3500–9000 ft)
Lathyrus ornatus	Bonneville pea	sa-gwa'-sa-ĭnt[N]	Unspecified	—	—
Lepidium spp.	Pepperweed; Peppergrass	sau'-ga-mi-ants[N]; wa'-to-ma-sĭv[N]	Unspecified	—	—
Lewisia pygmaea	Alpine bitterroot	—	Edible	Root	2300–4200 m (7545–13780 ft)
Lewisia rediva	Bitterroot	nʉgunu̱[S]	Ceremonial; Medicinal; Edible	Root	—
Leymus cinereus	Basin wildrye	ku-sia-kump[N]	Unspecified	—	—

continued

Table 5.1. (continued)

Latin Name	*Common Name*	*Ute Name(s)*	*Traditional Use(s)*	*Plant Part(s) Used*	*Elevation Range*
Leymus salinus	Saline wildrye	o-wiu[N]	Unspecified	—	0–3050 m (0–10000 ft)
*Ligusticum porteri**	Oshá; Bear root; Porter's lovage	kwiya-gha-tu tuka-pi[S]; kwiyaghatu tuna-pu[S]; gweahgahtichganap[M]	Ceremonial; Medicinal	Root	1300–3500 m (4300–11500 ft)
Lithospermum ruderale	Western stone seed	tsût-kûp[N]	Medicinal	Root	—
Lomatium dissectum var. *multifidum*	Biscuitroot; Carrot leaf	k^{w}iu[N]	Medicinal; Edible	Root	150–3000 m (492–9842 ft)
Lycopus americanus	American horehound	—	Medicinal	—	1524–2286 m (5000–7500 ft)
Maianthemum racemosum	Feathery false lily of the valley	yo-gwo'-ta-ma-nûmp[U]	Unspecified	—	1981–3048 m (6500–10000 ft)
Matricaria discoidea	Disc mayweed; May apple	(ma)-mo-a-na-nûmp[N]	Medicinal	—	0–2700 m (0–8858 ft)
Mentha arvensis	Wild mint	damount-up[N]; kouerau-nap[N]	Ceremonial; Edible; Beverage	Leaf; Stem	1524–2896 m (5000–9500 ft)
Monarda fistulosa	Mintleaf beebalm; Indian perfume	—	Insect repellent; Medicinal; Hygiene	Leaf	1500–2600 m (5000–8500 ft)
Nicotiana attenuata	Coyote tobacco	sapatu=ti[N]	Medicinal; Ceremonial	Leaf	305–2134 m (1000–7000 ft)
Nuphar lutea	Yellow pond lily	—	Edible	Leaf; Seed	2000–2250 m (600–7500 ft)
Oenothera spp.	Evening primrose	—	Unspecified	—	—
Opuntia spp.	Prickly pear	mana=pi[N,U]; manivf[S]	Utilitarian; Edible	Fruit; Leaf	—
Opuntia polyacantha	Plains prickly pear	maanife[N]; manivf[S]	Edible; Medicinal	Fruit; Pad; Flower	609–2438 m (2000–8000 ft)
Orogenia linearifolia	Great Basin Indian potato	nuu-pucu=ti[W]; pĭn-'ka-pai-äts[N]	Edible	Bulb	—
*Pascopyrum smithii**	Western wheatgrass	—	Animal feed	Leaf; Seed	914–2438 m (3000–8000 ft)
Paxistima myrsinites	Oregon box leaf	te-ĕ-kav[N]	Unspecified	—	1372–2743 m (4500–9000 ft)
Penstemon glaber	Western smooth beardtongue	mû-tcĕm-bi-a[N]	Unspecified	—	—
Perideridia gairdneri	Yampa	yam-pah[N]; yaa=pi[N,W]	Edible	Root	0–3000 m (0–9842 ft)
Phacelia spp.	Phacelia	?(ma)-mû'-tĕm-bi-a[N]	Unspecified	—	—
*Phleum pratense**	Common Timothy	—	Animal feed	Leaf, Seed	1219–2134 m (4000–9000 ft)
Phlox gracilis; Microsteris gracilis	Slender phlox	yo-gûm-sĭ-ta-gwĭv[U]	Medicinal	Whole plant	300–2400 m (1000–8000 ft)
Phlox longifolia	Longleaf phlox	mo-mu-'kwi-ĕts[N]	Unspecified	—	980–2070 m (3200–6800 ft)

Table 5.1. (continued)

Latin Name	*Common Name*	*Ute Name(s)*	*Traditional Use(s)*	*Plant Part(s) Used*	*Elevation Range*
Phragmites australis	Common reed	—	Basketry	Stem	0–1829 m (0–6000 ft)
*Picea engelmannii**	Engelmann spruce	—	Trail Marker; Shelter	Wood	2438–3505 m (8000–11500 ft)
Picea pungens	Colorado blue spruce	yiyuup(M)	Trail Marker; Shelter	Wood	1800–3000 m (5905–9842 ft)
Pinus aristata	Bristle-cone pine	—	Beverage	Needle	1700–3400 m (5577–11154 ft)
Pinus contorta	Lodgepole pine	ah-gwoop(N)	Shelter	Wood	—
Pinus edulis	Piñon pine	wa'a-pʉ(S); tu-gwoop(M); noodtoohuuhch(N); noodtoohvuhch(N); na?a-tɨpa=ci(W); nutu-tɨpa=ci(W)	Edible; Utilitarian; Basketry; Fuel	Wood; Seed; Sap; Needle	1500–2700 m (4921–8858 ft)
Pinus flexilis	Limber pine	ah-gwoop(N)	Shelter	Wood	1000–3000 m (3280–9842 ft)
*Pinus ponderosa**	Ponderosa pine	'agho-pʉ(S); uu-vweep(N)	Ceremonial; Edible; Medicinal; Utilitarian	Wood; Sap; Needle	1524–2743 m (5000–9000 ft)
Poliomintha incana	Purple sage; smoke sage; frosted mint	'aqho-tama-na-pʉ(S); quata manah(M)	Medicinal	Whole plant	—
Polypogon monspeliensis	Annual rabbit's foot grass	shpump(N)	Unspecified	—	152–2438 m (500–5000 ft)
Populus spp.	Cottonwood	sʉʉvu-pʉ(S); páa-sʉʉvu-pʉ(S); sho-av(N)	Ceremonial; Fuel; Utilitarian; Edible	Wood; Seed; Bark	1524–2286 m (5000–75000 ft)
*Populus angustifolia**	Narrowleaf cottonwood	—	Unspecified	—	1500–2200m (5000–7000 ft)
Populus fremontii	Fremont's cottonwood	—	Unspecified	—	700–1900m (2500–6100 ft)
*Populus tremuloides**	Aspen	sʉʉvu-pʉ(S)	Edible; Medicinal; Shelter; Fuel; Ceremonial	Wood; Sap	0–3048 m (0–10000 ft)
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed cinquefoil	qte'-äñ-gĭv(N)	Unspecified	—	1100–2700 m (3500–9000 ft)
*Potentilla concinna**	Elegant cinquefoil	—	Unspecified	—	—
*Potentilla rubricaulis**	Rocky Mountain cinquefoil	—	Unspecified	—	—
*Prunus virginiana**	Chokecherry	tée'na-pɨ(S); durn-up(S); turnup(N); titatɨna=pɨ(W)	Edible; Weaponry	Fruit; Stem	(1372–2438 m (4500–8000 ft)
*Pseudocymopterus montanus**	Alpine false spring parsley	—	Edible	Root	1676–3658 m (5500–12000 ft)
*Pseudotsuga menziesii**	Douglas fir	sa'ma-'agho-pʉ(S); sa'ma-yʉvu-pʉ(S)	Shelter	Wood	1524–3048 m (5000–10000 ft)
Pteridium aquilinum	Western bracken fern	kai-ban-kĭm-bĭs(N)	Edible	Leaf; Shoot	1067–2896 m (3500–9500 ft)

continued

Table 5.1. (continued)

Latin Name	*Common Name*	*Ute Name(s)*	*Traditional Use(s)*	*Plant Part(s) Used*	*Elevation Range*
Purshia spp.	Cliffrose	pu-i'-tcûm-av(N)	Unspecified	—	—
*Quercus gambelii**	Gambel oak	kwiya-vʉ(S); quiuve(S); quiau(M); kwi'-ûv(S)	Ceremonial; Edible; Shelter; Weaponry; Utilitarian	Seed; Wood; Leaf	1219–3048 m (4000–10000 ft)
Ranunculus aquatilis	White water crowfoot	pai'-a-pu-ĕts(N)	Unspecified	—	1372–2743 m (4500–9000 ft)
Ranunculus cymbalaria	Alkali buttercup	pau-ûs-a-nau-ga-ant(N)	Unspecified	-	1524–2438 m (5000–9000 ft)
*Rhus trilobata**	Three-leaf sumac; Skunkbush	'isi-vʉ(S); eesh(S,N); mo-tam-bi-äts(N); wɨsi(N)	Edible; Utilitarian; Basketry	Fruit; Stem; Root	762–2286 m (2500–7500 ft)
Ribes spp.	Currant; Gooseberry	sí-voghoy-pɨ(S); poghoy-pɨ(S); kʷatɨna=pɨ(W)	Edible	Fruit	—
Ribes aureum	Golden currant	po-gomp'-ĭv(N)	Edible	Fruit	1200–2100 m (4000–7000 ft)
Ribes cereum	Western red currant; Wax currant	poo gweep(S)	Edible	Fruit	91–3962 m (300–13000 ft)
Ribes inerme	White stem gooseberry	sapatʉʉ=pi(W)	Edible	Fruit	1219–2134 m (4000–7000 ft)
Ribes leptanthum	Trumpet gooseberry	—	Edible	Fruit	1676–3048 m (5500–10000 ft)
Rosa spp.	Wild rose	gehrump(N); añ-ga-ko-rĭmp(N)	Edible	Fruit	—
Rosa sayi	Prickly rose	—	Unspecified	-	—
*Rosa woodsii**	Wood's rose	añ-ga-si-ûñ-gĭv(N)	Edible; Medicinal	Fruit	1676–2743 m (5500–9000 ft)
*Rubus ideaus**	Raspberry	poghoy-pʉ-vʉ(S); naka=watʉ=pɨ(W)	Edible	Fruit	1850–3500 m (6000–11500 ft)
*Rubus parviflorus**	Thimbleberry	—	Edible	Fruit	2150–3250 m (7000–10800 ft)
Rumex crispus	Culrey dock	—	Edible, Medicinal	—	—
*Rumex salicifolius**	Willow dock	—	Medicinal	—	300–2700 m (1000–9000 ft)
Salix spp.	Willow	aguu kannu(S); ka-nivh(S); auka ka-nivh(S); kana-vʉ(S)	Ceremonial; Medicinal; Basketry	Stem; Cambium	—
Salix amygdaloides	Peachleaf willow	k'sa'nav; k'sa-ka-nav	Basketry	Stem	1524–1981 m (5000–6500 ft)
Salix eriocephala	Missouri River willow	—	Basketry	Stem	0–1200 m (0–3937 ft)
*Salix exigua**	Sandbar; Coyote willow	ka-nav'(S)	Basketry	Stem	350–2800 m (100–9200 ft)
Salix lasiandra	Pacific willow	—	Basketry	Stem	1200–2700 m (3700–8300 ft)
Salix lucida	Shining willow	k'sa'nav; k'sa-ka-nav	Basketry	Stem	0–600 m (0–1968 ft)

Table 5.1. (continued)

Latin Name	*Common Name*	*Ute Name(s)*	*Traditional Use(s)*	*Plant Part(s) Used*	*Elevation Range*
Salix scouleriana	Scouler's willow	ta-ma-nûmp-ĭn-av(N); ta-ma-nûmp-in-ka-av(N)	Basketry	Stem	2100–3300 m (6900–10700 ft)
Sambucus microbotrys	Elderberry	—	Edible	Fruit	1829–3048 m (6000–10000 ft)
*Sambucus racemosa**	Red elderberry	—	Edible	Fruit	1829–3048 m (6000–10000 ft)
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	Soft stem bulrush	t'su-saip(N)	Edible	Shoot	0–2438 m (0–8000 ft)
Senecio spp.	Groundsel	ko-ats-ĕm-sĭ-ta-gwĭv(N)	Medicinal	—	—
Shepherdia argentea	Buffaloberry	tuwa-pʉ(S); ahkup(N); agup(N); anga-si-un-giv(N); añ-gût-a-gwĭv(N); nika=pi(W)	Edible; Medicinal	Fruit	—
Shepherdia canadensis	Russet buffaloberry	ta-ma-nûmp(N)	Edible	Fruit	2134–2743 m (7000–10000 ft)
Solanum jamesii	Wild potato; Mountain potato	—	Edible	Tuber	1676–2591 m (5500–8500 ft)
*Solidago simplex**	Mt. Albert goldenrod	—	Medicinal	—	1100–2900 m (3500–9500 ft)
Sphaeralcea spp.	Globe mallow	—	Edible	—	—
Spiranthes diluvialis	Ute ladies tresses	—	Medicinal	—	1300–1800 m (4265–5905 ft)
Streptanthus cordatus	Heartleaf twist flower	o-nûn-ga-ats(N)	Unspecified	—	610–2438 m (2000–8000 ft)
Symphoricarpos spp.*	Snowberry	—	Basketry	Stem	1100–3700 m (3500–12000 ft)
*Taraxacum officinale**	Common dandelion	(mo)-mûn'-ti-ad-qsûp(N)	Edible	Leaf; Flower	762–2743 m (2500–9000 ft)
Tellima spp.	Tellima	añ-gai-ya-ga-ti-nûmp(N)	Unspecified	—	—
Toxicodendron rydbergii	Poison ivy	che dap(M); chi-nip(M)	Poisonous	—	0–2591 m (0–8500 ft)
Trifolium spp.	Clover	pu-i'-tcûm-av(W)	Unspecified	—	-
Trifolium pratense	Red clover	?sa-gwa-ĭn-di-ûp(N); mo'-pi-änts(N); mû'-pi-äints(N)	Unspecified	—	1200–2700 m (4000–9000 ft)
Trifolium repens	White clover	—	Unspecified	—	1067–2286 m (3500–7500 ft)
Triglochin maritima	Seaside arrowgrass	pa'-sau-wa-dĭnt(N)	Unspecified	—	1372–2591 m (4500–8500 ft)
Typha angustifolia	Narrow-leaf cattail	—	Ceremonial; Edible; Utilitarian	Shoot; seed; leaf	0–1900 m (0–6233 ft)
Typha latifolia	Broad-leaf cattail	—	Ceremonial; Edible; Utilitarian; Basketry	Shoot; Seed; Leaf	1219–2591 m (4000–8500 ft)
*Ulmus pumila**	Siberian elm	—	Fuel	Wood	0–2286 m (0–7500 ft)

continued

Table 5.1. (continued)

Latin Name	*Common Name*	*Ute Name(s)*	*Traditional Use(s)*	*Plant Part(s) Used*	*Elevation Range*
Vaccinium caespitosum	Bilberry; Dwarf huckleberry; Blueberry	tuwa-pi̲[S]; toowump[N]; patu=pi̲[N]	Edible	Fruit	0–4500 m (0–14763 ft)
*Verbascum thapsus**	Common mullein	teeyahumkuv[S, N]	Medicinal	Leaf	1524–2134 m (5000–7000 ft)
Viola beckwithii	Beckwith's violet	ka-bam-sĭ-ta-gwĭv[N]	Medicinal	—	900–2700 m (2952–8858 ft)
Yucca angustissima	Soapweed yucca	wisi[M]	Edible; Utilitarian	Fruit	—
Yucca baccata	Banana yucca	wisi[M]; wi̲si[N]; wisiwĭv[M]; wíisi-vu̲[S]	Edible; Utilitarian	Fruit; Leaves	914–2438 m (3000–8000 ft)
Yucca glauca	Soap weed yucca	—	Edible; Hygiene; Utilitarian	Root; Fruit; Leaves	1067–2591 m (3500–8500 ft)
Yucca harrimaniae	Spanish bayonet	wi̲si[N]	Hygiene; Utilitarian	Root; Leaves	1000–2500 m (3280–8202 ft)
Zigadenus nuttallii	Nuttall's death camas	ta-bä'-si-gwĭv[N]	Poisonous	Bulb	500–1200 m (1640–3937 ft)

**Denotes plants species was observed during fieldwork . Elevation ranges derived from SEINet 2021; Springer and others 2009.*

ETHNOGRAPHIC SUMMARIES OF PLANT RESOURCES IN THE BPMD AREA

Plants are important in Ute subsistence and ceremony, spirituality, and education. Traditional-use plants are considered sacred because they provide a link to traditional Ute values, knowledge, and history (Perlman 1998:69). Traditional-use plants serve a range of functions including food, medicine, ceremonies, household maintenance, hygiene, construction, shelter, entertainment, and education. Traditional knowledge about plants has been preserved primarily through the continued interaction with the environment and maintenance of traditional cultural practices. The following section describes ethnographic information for plants identified during this study. For some plants, the available ethnographic information is limited to a Ute name; however, even this is significant because names represent a legacy of use, knowledge, and understanding.

The ethnographic information presented in this chapter was obtained or reviewed during interviews and fieldwork with Ute tribal research participants (Figure 5.1; Figure 5.2; Figure 5.3). A plant biologist, William Widener, assisted with fieldwork to ensure accurate identification of plant species. Plants are listed in alphabetical order according to their scientific name and are summarized in Table 5.1. Scientific terminology rather than Ute names were used to order the discussion so that the EPA can more easily use these data for continued remedial investigation of the BPMD. Common names and Ute names are also provided.

Figure 5.1. Garrett Briggs and William Widener document plants in the BPMD study area. Photograph by Maren Hopkins, August 20, 2019.

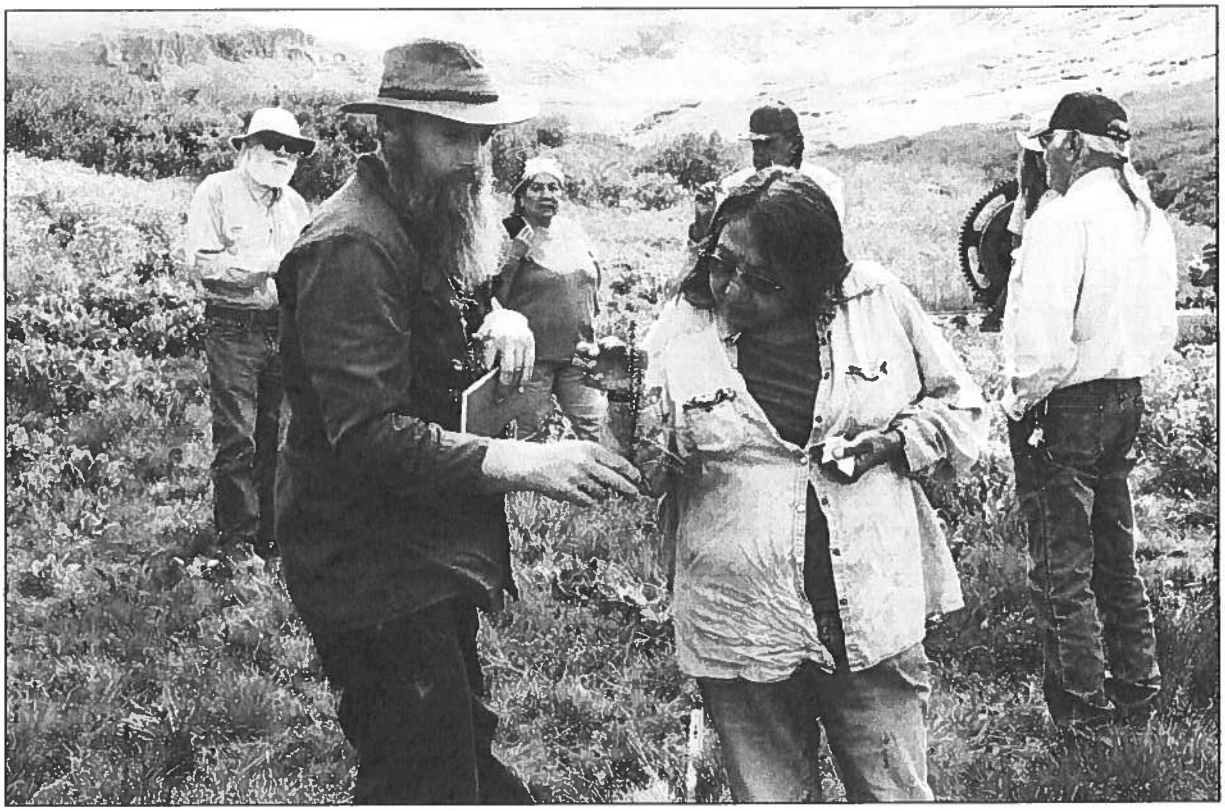

Figure 5.2. William Widener and Cassandra Atencio discuss plants in the project area. Photograph by Maren Hopkins, August 20, 2019.

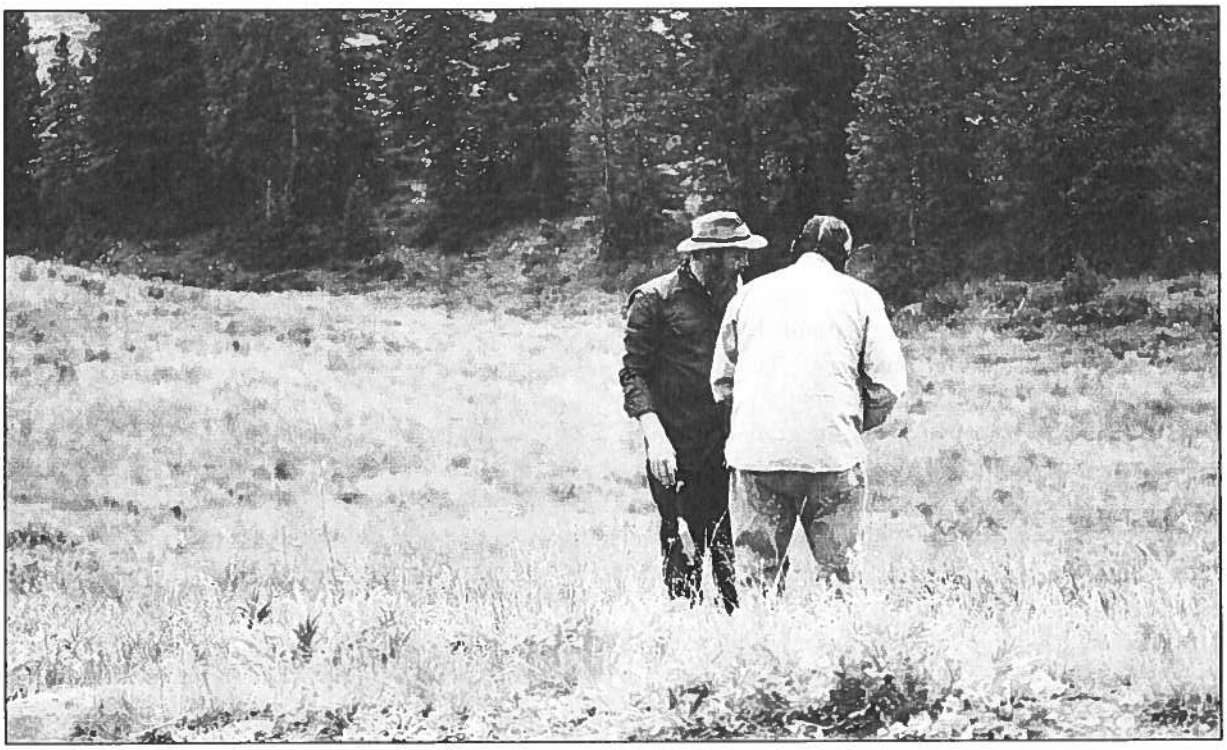

Figure 5.3. William Widener discusses plants with Terry Knight. Photograph by Maren Hopkins, August 20, 2019.