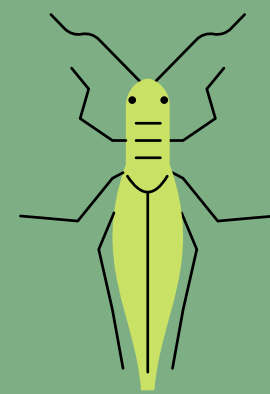
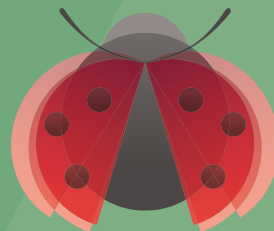
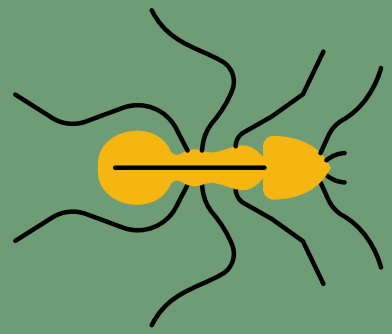
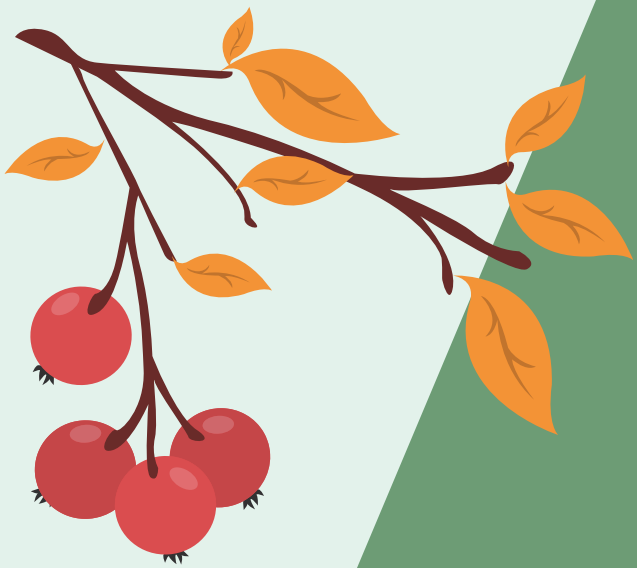


# EVERY LITTLE THING

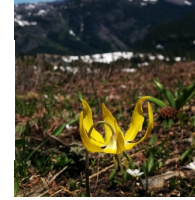
Life is about  
Relationships.



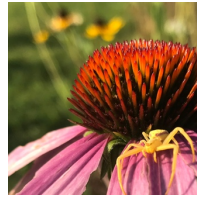
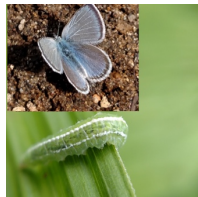
**NCSE**  
National Center for  
Science Education

# Selected Species in this Mountain Ecosystem

Meadow plants: Gorgeous wildflowers growing between forests below and rocky mountaintops above. Provide food and habitat for many species.



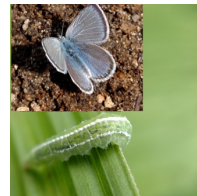
**Insect herbivores:**  
Feed on plant tissues. Usually abundant in number, prey for many other animals.



**Invertebrate predators:**  
Feed on other insects, which is helpful for plants because it reduces herbivory.



**Pollinators:**  
Feed on nectar and/or pollen, and in the process move pollen from one plant to another.



**Conifer:** Grows in dense forests at lower elevations; provide food and habitat for many species

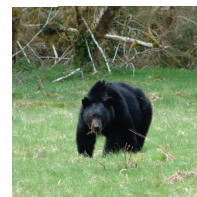
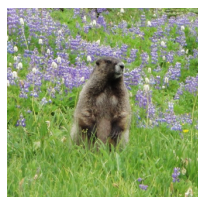
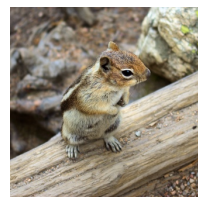
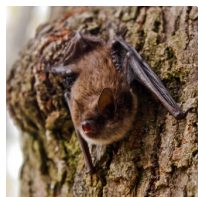


**Parasites:** Specialize on one/a few hosts, feeding on them without killing them. Note: Only some mosquitoes (and only pregnant females of those species) are parasites. The others feed on plants!



**Vertebrates:** Birds, mammals, and amphibians—can be herbivores, predators, or omnivores; generalist or specialists.

**Decomposer:** Cleans up after everyone else



# Tahoma (Mt. Rainier), WA, USA (46.8523° N, 121.7603° W)



Mountains are warming faster than lowlands. Climate change affects not only temperature, but also patterns of snowfall. The plants and animals that live in this habitat are experiencing changes in the timing of snowmelt, in patterns of spring and summer warmth, and in water availability. The effects are felt by individual organisms and can shift the relationships between species that hold ecosystems together.