Ten Plants Native to the Coos Watershed

1. **Western Red Cedar**
   This is a shade-tolerant, evergreen, conifer that can grow to be 50 feet tall. This cedar has glossy, green, aromatic foliage and with pruning, can make a nice hedge or screen.

   **Benefits/Uses**
   Once a deep root system is established, this tree will tolerate deep shade. It also provides food, nesting, and cover for wildlife.

2. **Sitka Spruce**
   This is a conical-shaped, evergreen, conifer that grow to be 100 feet tall or taller. It has flat, four-sided needles that are often bluish-green. Sitka spruce is shade-tolerant with moderate water requirements.

   **Benefits/Uses**
   This is a fast-growing tree that even does well in poor soils. It attracts many animals such as squirrels, elk, and bear and provides good roosting spots for bald eagles and peregrine falcons.

3. **Western Hemlock**
   Western hemlock is a shade-tolerant tree, but prefers good soil. It can grow to be 50-100 feet tall and has a general conical shape. It grows well in the humid areas of the Pacific Northwest due to its moderate water requirement.

   **Benefits/Uses**
   Deer and elk browse western hemlock for food, and cavity nesting birds often make nests in western hemlock.

4. **Grand Fir**
   Grand Fir is an evergreen, conifer that can grow to be 50 feet tall. It has a low water requirement and does well in sun or partial sun. This tree is fast-growing and is competitive under sheltered conditions.

   **Benefits/Uses**
   The needles smell like tangerines when crushed and can be used as potpourri. Grand fir needles are eaten by grouse, and other birds and rodents eat the seeds.

5. **Cottonwood**
   Cottonwood grows up to 120 feet tall and prefers moist sites with full sun. Cottonwoods often have yellow fall foliage.

   **Benefits/Uses**
   Cottonwood is a fast-growing tree, useful as a windbreak. Many parts of the cottonwood tree are eaten by wildlife, and raptors and cavity nesting birds often call cottonwood trees home.
OREGONASH
Oregon ash is a deciduous tree that grows up to 60 feet tall. It does well in riparian areas or other sites with poorly drained soils and seasonal flooding.

BENEFITS/USES
Oregon ash provides important habitat along stream banks. It provides habitat and food for beaver and nutria - although they also damage the tree.

SPIREA
This deciduous shrub is drought tolerant but does best in full sun. It grows to 3-6 feet tall and comes in many different leaf and flower colors.

BENEFITS/USES
This is a very easy shrub to grow and its fibrous and complex root system assists in erosion control.

VINE MAPLE
This deciduous shrub grows 5-20 feet tall in part shade or shade. Vine maple has red-orange fall foliage and requires a moderate amount of water.

BENEFITS/USES
Similar to spirea, vine maple can be used to prevent erosion of stream banks. Vine maple provides food and nesting materials for several species of birds and wildlife.

NINEBARK
This deciduous shrub grows 3-6 feet tall and has white or pink blooms in the spring months. Ninebark tolerates a wide range of soil conditions.

BENEFITS/USES
This is a good plant to replace butterfly bush with. It is not eaten by beavers or deer and is also useful for erosion control.

RED-OSIER DOGWOOD
This drought-tolerant shrub can grow to be 15 feet tall. It does well in sun to partial shade and moist soils. It has a dark red stem that provides color in winter.

BENEFITS/USES
This is a good plant to replace knotweed with. It works well as a windbreak or in riparian plantings. This shrub provides food and shelter to many wildlife species such as robins, rabbits, and deer.

Learn more about native plants and their uses on our website at http://www.cooswatershed.org or by calling 541-888-5922.