

Quaking Aspen Stand



This stand of Aspens is about 10 yards off the trail. The trees have a light gray bark and slender trunks. It is called “Quaking” because even light winds cause its leaves to appear to move or quake. The Aspen spreads both by seeds but also by spreading root sprouts, making a tree’s neighbor its clone. Because of the spread of its leaves at the top of the tree (its canopy), sunlight can reach the floor of the forest easier, giving an advantage to wildflowers. The Aspen has the broadest distribution of any tree in North America, preferring higher elevations and more northern latitudes.