September 22, 2026

Good afternoon Cache Hikers,

I'm the Director of the National Champion Tree Program (NCTP) and wanted to reach out to thank you for posting your trip report of your hike from June 14th, 2026. We maintain the Register of National Champion Trees, the largest trees in the United States, and the Jardine Juniper is one of only three trees that has been a National Champion since the Register's inception in 1940. It is a very special tree, and one of my personal favorites.

Recently, someone reached out to me with concern that the tree was deceased based on some of the photos in our record. I went on the hunt to see if anyone had posted recent photos of the tree online, to check and see if it was still living - your trip report provided the recent, dated proof needed to ensure that this gentle giant retains its much-deserved crown (with a beautiful picture, my compliments to the photographer!).

If you or any of the hikers have any pictures of the Jardine Juniper that you'd like us to share on the NCTP website's listing for the tree (https://nationalchampiontree.org/championTree/3034/), just send them my way along with who should be credited for the photo, and I'll gladly add the pictures to the record.

Thank you for your remarkable and valuable documentation of your hikes, and for your work connecting people to the nature outside of their bodies! I'm cheering you all on, and hope to someday hike to the Jardine Juniper with you!

Warmly,
Jaq Payne
National Director
Champion Tree Program
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https://nationalchampiontree.org/

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