

Who Am I?

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**Why is
my favorite tree
the Limber Pine?**

Photo: National Park Service



I am a Clark's Nutcracker!

My favorite tree is the Limber Pine because...

- I love to eat its seeds.
- I'm the only bird in Alta that can open its pinecones.
- We are friends. It gives me food to eat and I plant its seeds.
- We both live in the mountains.

Plants and animals cannot exist without certain other plants and animals. When two living things are reliant on each other for survival they are interdependent. The relationship the Nutcracker has with the Limber Pine benefits both species. This is called a mutualistic relationship. A parasitic relationship benefits one organism and harms the other. A commensalistic relationship benefits one organism without doing harm to the other. Within Alta's high alpine ecosystem there are hundreds of interdependent relationships.

Can you think of other relationships where living things are dependent on each other?