

## Desert Fan Palm

*Washingtonia filifera*



- Elevation- between 500 and 1000 feet
- Native to the southwest US and Baja California
- Symbiotic Relationships- The dead leaves form a protective shelter that provides a habitat for creatures like birds, insects and small rodents. Hooded orioles and coyotes eat the seeds helping the trees reproduce.
- Terrain- moist soils along alkaline streams and in mountain canyons
- Edible?-the trees produce a dozen or so date clusters at 5-20 lbs. each
- History-Cahuilla Indians used it for food, especially the fruit/nut which they ground up into flour or made a mush. They also used the fruit to make jelly or soaked it and made a sweet beverage.
- the palms were used in construction and could also be stripped and used for weaving.