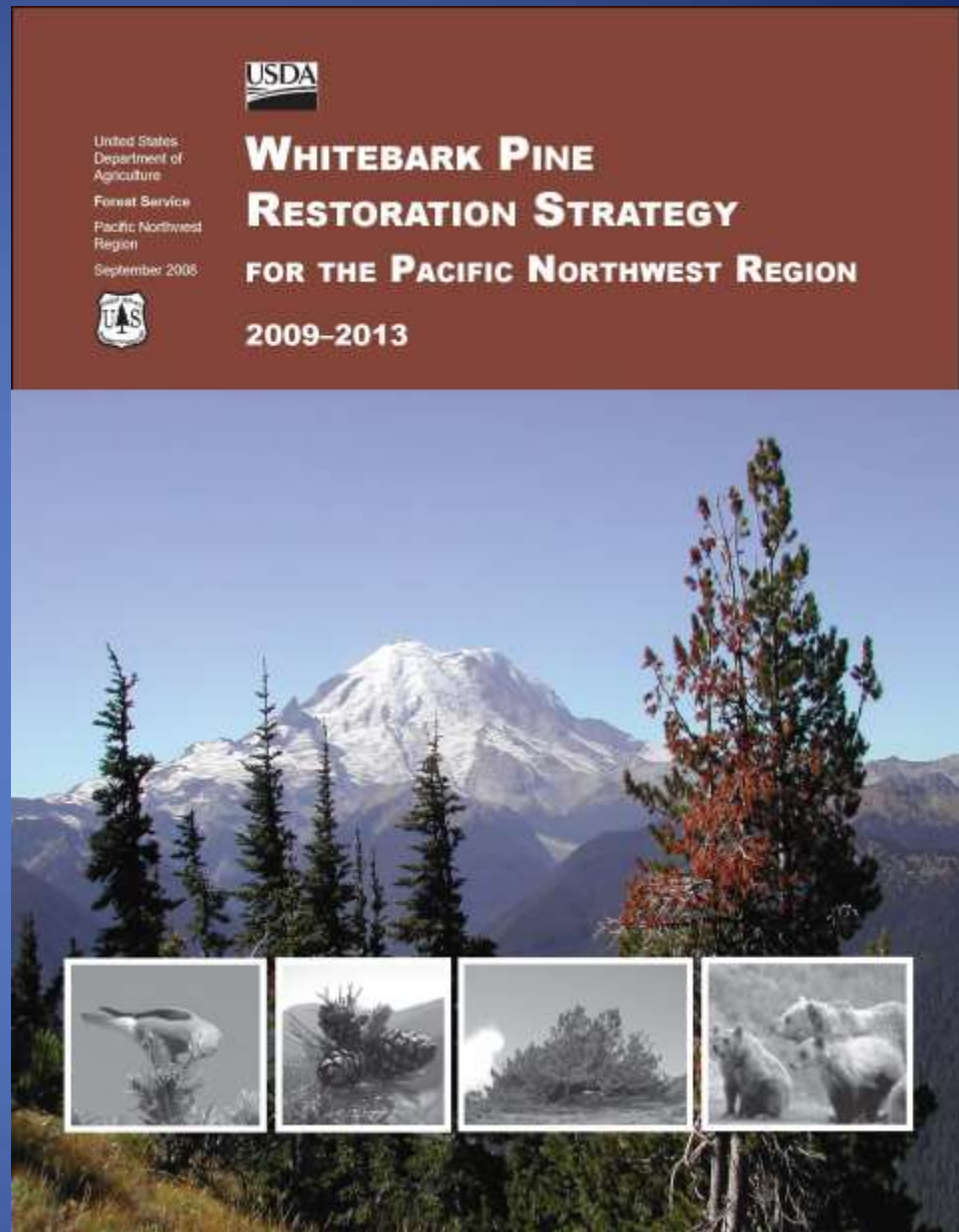


Status of WBP Restoration in R6

WBP Applied Restoration
PCWBPWG meeting
March 12, 2014

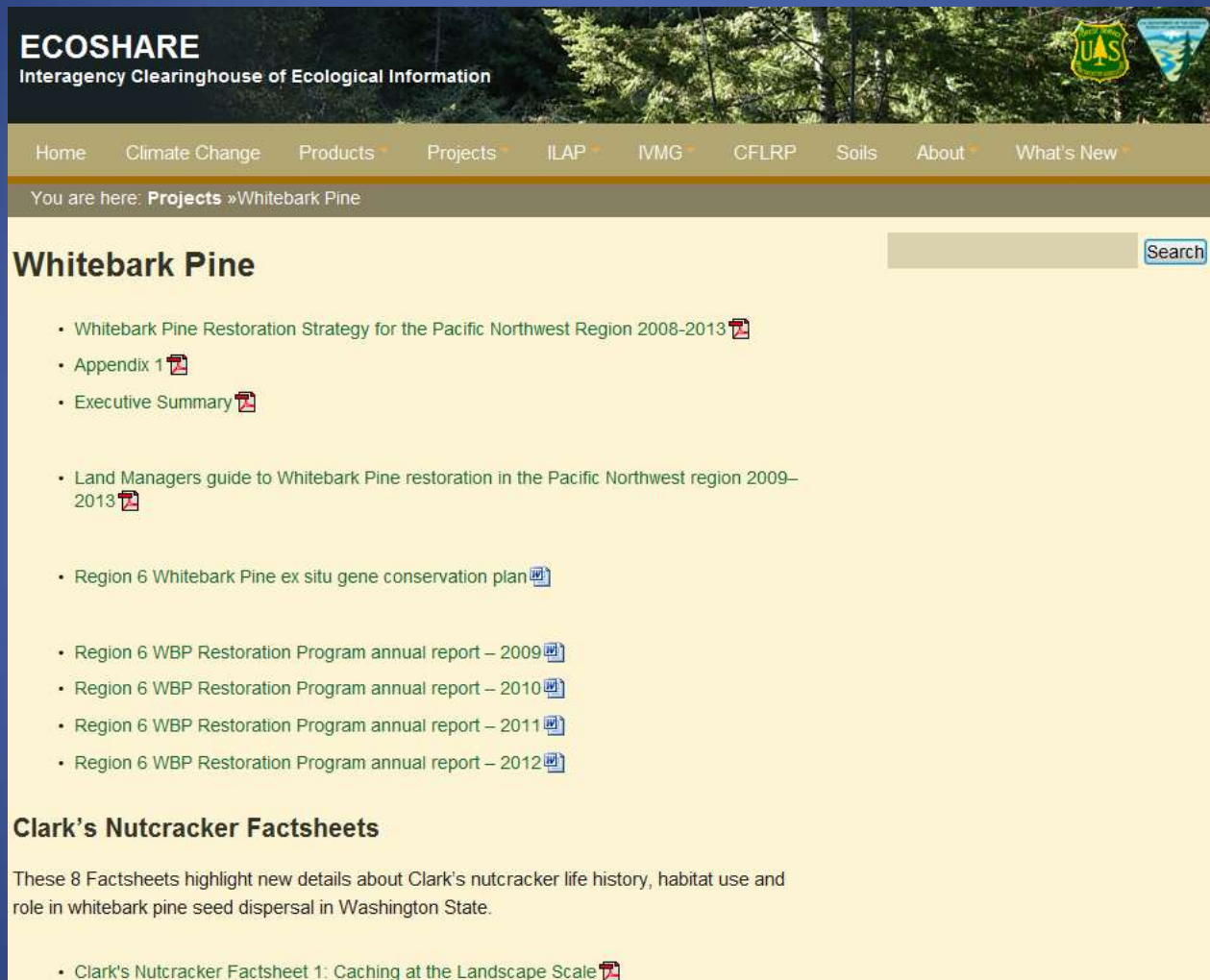
Region 6 WBP Restoration Strategy



Key Actions Prescribed

- ✓ Collect seed for gene conservation and rust resistance screening
- ✓ Assess stand conditions in priority management units
- ✓ Develop plans for planting seedlings in priority management units
- ✓ Continue a rust screening program
- ✓ Treat for mountain pine beetle in high risk units
- ✓ Develop an approach for planting seedlings in designated wilderness areas

Where to find documents












ECOSHARE
Interagency Clearinghouse of Ecological Information

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Whitebark Pine

Search

- Whitebark Pine Restoration Strategy for the Pacific Northwest Region 2008-2013 
- Appendix 1 
- Executive Summary 
- Land Managers guide to Whitebark Pine restoration in the Pacific Northwest region 2009–2013 
- Region 6 Whitebark Pine ex situ gene conservation plan 
- Region 6 WBP Restoration Program annual report – 2009 
- Region 6 WBP Restoration Program annual report – 2010 
- Region 6 WBP Restoration Program annual report – 2011 
- Region 6 WBP Restoration Program annual report – 2012 

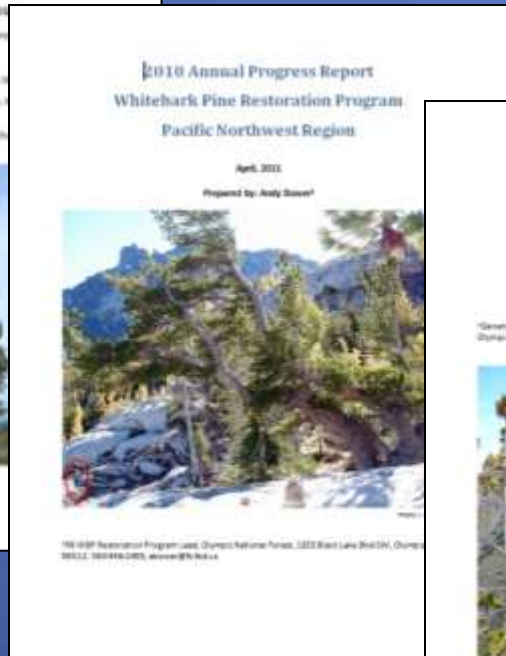
Clark's Nutcracker Factsheets

These 8 Factsheets highlight new details about Clark's nutcracker life history, habitat use and role in whitebark pine seed dispersal in Washington State.

- Clark's Nutcracker Factsheet 1: Caching at the Landscape Scale 

<http://ecoshare.info/projects/whitebark-pine/>

Annual Progress Reports 2009-2012



Reforestation Collections

Seed Zone	Cons. Area	Forest	Years	Lbs seed	Location
2E	203, 204, 205	OKA-WEN	'09, '10	28.2	JHSN
2W	206, 208	OKA-WEN	'10	9.3	JHSN
3	301	OKA-WEN	'09, '11	4.8	JHSN
4	404, 405	OKA-WEN, GP	'09, '10	13.9	JHSN
5	501	MTH	'03, '09	40.4	JHSN
5	503	DES	'09	1.2	BSE
6	602	W-W	'99, '03, '11	80.9	BSE
6	603	UMA/MAL	'03, '09	10.6	BSE
6	604	MAL	'09	2.3	BSE
8	801	FRE-WIN	'11	5.9	JHSN/BSE
8	802	FRE-WIN	'10, '12	65.1	JHSN/BSE
8	803	FRE-WIN	'93, '09, '11, '12	30.6	JHSN/BSE

Whitebark Pine Restoration: A Reality Check

- Seeding & planting is a growing imperative:
 - to mitigate impacts of blister rust, bark beetles, wildfires, climate change.
 - to provide seed sources to establish/sustain future generations
 - to accelerate increase in blister rust resistance
 - to avoid federal listing
- Seed need assessments to achieve recovery goals are lacking for most R6 forests with suitable or projected habitat.
- Current inventories are likely inadequate relative to needs .
- Direct seeding, if employed, will require a LOT of seed.
- Bottom Line: we need to collect a LOT more seed, asap.

Planting Projects

Forest	Cons. Area	Year	Acres	# seedlings
FRE-WIN	802	2009	50	133
GP	405	2009	2	120
DES	502	2009	2	50
MTH	501	2010	35	12,461
DES	502/503	2011	X on 5 sites	1,000
OKA-WEN	205	2012	250 on 5 sites	2,900
FUTURE				
OKA-WEN	203	2014?	Quartz Creek	
GP	405	2015?	Cascade Creek	

Other Projects

- 2011 – OKA-WEN Thinning 3.6 acres on Starvation Mtn.
- 2003? – UMA Thinning/girdling on Vinegar Hill
- 2013/14 – W-W Thinning 50 acres at Anthony Lakes
- 2200 verbenone pouches on FRE-WIN since '09
- Verbenone used on DES and MTH

Wilderness Management



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Northwest
Region

333 SW First Avenue (97204)
PO Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208-3623
503-808-2468

File Code: 2320/2670

Date: November 3, 2011

Route To:

Subject: Management of White Bark Pine in Wilderness Areas

To: CRONSA Manager, Forest Supervisors

Whitebark pine is a keystone species of high-elevation ecosystems. It is a major food source for wildlife, improves slope stability, tempers spring snowmelt, and contributes to the wild beauty of timberline experienced by wilderness visitors. Widespread mortality and reduced reproduction have occurred throughout most of the pine's range, due to the introduction of the white pine blister rust disease, infestation by mountain pine beetle, climate change, and altered fire regimes.

Whitebark pine was identified as a candidate species by the USFWS in July of 2011, establishing its conservation as a high priority for all agencies managing alpine areas in the west. In our Region, 75% of whitebark pine habitat is located within congressionally designated wilderness, with many distinct populations existing entirely within wilderness boundaries. As a result, there is a need for consistency in the method of evaluating proposals for whitebark pine restoration in wilderness.

Conservation of whitebark pine in wilderness is an intriguing challenge. The four aspects of wilderness character for which we manage are "natural," "untrammeled (wild)," "undeveloped," and "opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation." **The Minimum Requirement Decision Guide (MRDG) is a process designed to help managers comply with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and Forest Service Policy (FSM 2320) by weighing the sometimes-conflicting considerations of the four qualities of wilderness character.** Whenever we have a proposal for management action that threatens one of the four characteristics of wilderness, we use the MRDG to evaluate alternatives and select the one that will result in the least overall impact to wilderness character.

Three potential management actions were developed through a cooperative effort between native plant specialists and wilderness managers who recognized **"management of whitebark pine in wilderness" to be synonymous with "wilderness management."** With the help of the MRDG process, they discussed many potential actions to protect whitebark pine habitat, eventually narrowing them down to the actions with the least potential to negatively impact wilderness character. This collaborative effort is an excellent example of working together to manage wilderness as a single, holistic resource. We would encourage employees in all program areas to embrace the use of the MRDG process when in Wilderness.



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Management of White Bark Pine in Wilderness Areas

Page 2

These three actions have been analyzed and identified as **appropriate tools to consider using in the effort to protect select whitebark pine populations within wilderness** (see Enclosed). These actions include: **1) pheromone application to protect against beetle infestation, 2) planting of seedlings, and 3) cone collection.** These actions are intended to be applied on a site-specific scale to protect individual populations of genetic material, and none of them include permanent installations or the use of motorized or mechanized equipment.

Our hope is that a level of consistency will be established regarding the process for evaluating proposals to preserve whitebark pine populations within wilderness. **For each project, the MRDG process will be utilized on the site-specific level to evaluate the proposal and select the action with the least impact on wilderness character.** If you have questions regarding this direction, please contact either, Andrew Bower by phone at 360-956-2405 or by email at abower@fs.fed.us, Michael Heitman can be reached by phone at 503-808-2449 or by e-mail at mheitman@fs.fed.us.

For more information on the MRDG, visit: <http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=MRDG>

/s/ Claire Lavendel

/s/ Jeff Walter

CLAIRE LAVENDEL
Director, Recreation, Lands, and Mineral
Resources

JEFF P. WALTER
Director, Natural Resources

Enclosures: three

cc: Michael Heitman, Rodney Macc, Debbie A Hollen, Doug Daoust

Potential Sources of Funding

- FHP WBP restoration fund
- FHP gene conservation funds
- ISSSSP
- WPEF
- USFWS recovery funds
- National Forest Foundation
- American Forests
- WCF



FHP WBP Restoration Fund

- RFP in November
- Due in December
- 5 focus areas
 - A. Assessing Health: Survey and Monitoring*
 - B. Operational Cone collections*
 - C. Harnessing Rust Resistance*
 - D. Enhancing Regeneration and Reducing Competing Vegetation*
 - E. Special Projects*
 - F. Education/outreach/technology transfer*

FHP Gene Conservation

- Significant funding in past
- Mostly focused on other species now



ISSSSP

- Interagency Special Status Sensitive Species Program
 - Joint BLM/USFS
 - RFP early Feb, Due late March

Top 10 priorities submitted by forests

Funding guided by these lists

WPEF Restoration Fund

- Funded projects in the past
- Raising funds for future projects
- www.whitebarkfound.org



USFWS Recovery Funds

- WA
 - RFP for projects
 - Pre-proposals due NOV
 - If selected, Full proposal due JAN
 - ted_thomas@fws.gov
- OR
 - “Rolling” proposals accepted throughout the year
 - Form needed
 - jeffrey_dillon@fws.gov

Other NGO's

- National Forest Foundation
 - Provided funds for Quartz mtn
- American Forests
 - Endangered Western Forests program

WCF Funding for Restoration/Reforestation Seed Collection



- Working Capital Fund (WCF) :
 - Pays for collection, processing, testing, and annual storage
 - Does not cover surveys, caging, or crop monitoring costs
 - Call memo to forests in June, with responses due in mid-July.
 - Coordinate with Forest Silviculturists
 - Other (project) funds reimburse WCF account when seed is removed for sowing. Current price is \$292/pound
- Resources:
 - FSM 2474.32 – Seed Bank
 - <http://fsweb-ochdes.r6.fs.fed.us/seed-extractory/>
- Contacts:
 - Vicky Erickson (RO)
 - Kayla Herriman (Bend Seed Extractory)

R6 Restoration Services Contract: 2014 Renewal

- 5 year, IDIQ contract to establish a pre-qualified pool of contractors for restoration-related work
- Includes bid items for tree climbing/cone collection/caging , and numerous other activities
- Open to all R6 units, as well as other FS regions and federal agencies
- RFP will be posted in FedBizOpps on 3/13 (AG-04M3-S-14-0016).
- Need your help in soliciting quality local contractors to submit proposals
- Contact: Vicky Erickson (RO) or Karen Prudhomme, (UMA)