

Quartz Mountain Whitebark Pine Restoration Proposal
Pasayten Wilderness
Methow Valley Ranger District
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest



Quartz Mountain Whitebark Pine Planting Proposal History

- **August 20, 2002**

Lightning ignited numerous fires, eventually burning 11,000 acres in the Pasayten Wilderness.

- **July, 2012**

Site visit to Quartz Mountain found no seedlings on previous whitebark pine site. Four acres identified for planting.



★ Proposed Planting Site

US/ Canada Border –
1 mile



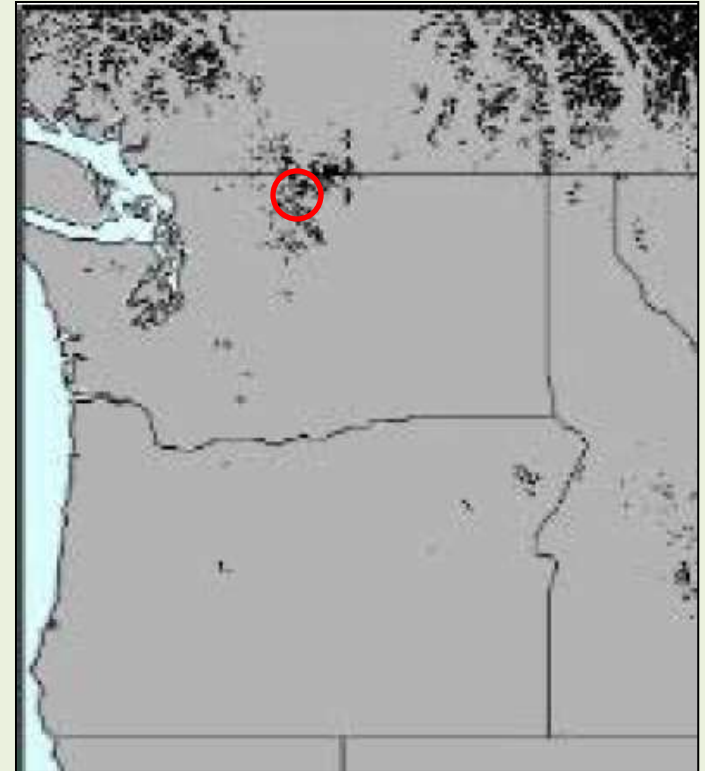
Rationale for Whitebark Pine Restoration in the Pasayten Wilderness

- Fires in 2002 burned 11,000 acres; 600 acres of whitebark pine habitat.
- Field visit in 2012 found no seedlings.
- Quartz Mountain is not heavily used by visitors.
- Area is accessible by trail.
- Sufficient soil to be plantable; microsites for seedling protection.
- Climate change models show Pasayten as a stronghold for whitebark pine.
- In NE Washington, over 75% of whitebark pine habitat is in wilderness.
- National Forest Foundation funding available.
- Seedlings from Quartz Mountain seed zone are available.

Whitebark Pine Habitat Predicted by Warwick Climate Model (2007)



Current Whitebark Habitat



Predicted Whitebark Habitat in 2030

Red circles show approximate location of the Pasayten Wilderness

Significant Dates in Pasayten Wilderness Whitebark Pine Restoration Planning

- **August 2002:** Quartz Mtn. Fire burns.
- **July 2009:** Post-fire survey. No seedlings found.
- **November, 2011:** RO letter on managing WBP in wilderness sent to all Forest Supervisors.
- **July 2012:** Specialists identify 4 acres of Quartz Mountain Burn for WBP planting. Decision made to prepare a CE.
- **December 2012:** Lisa Machnik voices concerns about planting in wilderness. Decision made to prepare an EA.
- **March 5, 2013:** DR initiates 30-day comment period.
- **March 27, 2013:** DR sends Project Initiation Letter to IDT. Target date for completion is May 13.
- **April 2013:** Briefing paper & MRDG sent to WO.
- **June 2013:** Chief delegates decision authority to RF.

Significant Dates in Pasayten Wilderness Whitebark Pine Restoration Planning (Continued)

- **July 4, 2013:** Legal notice published in *The Oregonian*.
- **August 3, 2013:** Letter received from Wilderness Watch, expressing opposition.
- **October, 2013:** Window closes for fall planting.
- **December, 2013:** Draft response to Wilderness Watch comments completed.
- **December 11, 2013:** New Forest Supervisor Mike Balboni briefed on Quartz Mountain Project history and status.

