



Needles of five, keep it alive!

***PLEASE DO NOT CUT* WHITEBARK PINE TREES.**

If a tree's needles grow in clusters of five, leave it to grow!

Whitebark Pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) trees live in windy, cold, high-elevation and/or high-latitude environments across the western United States and southern Canada. On the Fremont-Winema National Forest, Whitebark Pine trees can grow in areas dominated by Whitebark Pine as well as in mixed conifer stands with Lodgepole Pine, Western White Pine, Sugar Pine, and even occasionally Ponderosa Pine above approximately 6,300 feet in elevation. As a keystone species, this five-needled pine influences the health and life cycle of other native plants and animals. In addition to providing a high-energy food source for animals, healthy Whitebark Pine stands also play an essential role in slowing runoff from snowmelt and reducing soil erosion.

White pine blister rust remains the primary threat to Whitebark Pine. This blister rust is a non-native fungal disease that harms Whitebark Pine trees across the West. Additional threats impacting the health of the species include mountain pine beetles, altered wildfire patterns, and climate change. As a result of these threats, scientists estimate that as of 2016, 51% of all standing Whitebark Pine trees are dead. In December of 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a final action to list Whitebark Pine as a threatened species, under the Endangered Species Act.



Forest Service / U.S. Department of Agriculture

Fremont-Winema National Forest



The protections for Whitebark Pine make it illegal to remove, possess, or damage the tree on federal lands, or to engage in interstate or foreign commerce, including the prohibition of importing or exporting the tree.



Images of Whitebark Pine L to R: Mature Whitebark, Sapling and needle clusters, Clark's nutcracker assisting in seed dispersal.

**For additional information, please contact:
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Thank you for your support in protecting this threatened species!



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