

Whitebark Pine Cone Collection on the Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest

2009 Accomplishments

This project involved collecting whitebark pine seed to create a seed source for future out-planting on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Twenty trees from the Vipond Park area on the Wise River Ranger District were selected for cone collection. This area is a unique area with some of the last remaining whitebark pine on the forest due to the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Bob Hodge and Gary Hertin used a cherry picker (Figure 1) to first cage the cones to protect them from Clark's nutcracker damage. That part of the project occurred in July of 2009. Then they went out with the cherry picker in the first week of September and collected the cages (Figure 2) and cones from the selected trees. Four and a half bushels of cones were collected (Figure 3) and delivered to the USFS Coeur d'Alene Nursery for grow-out into seedlings.



Figure 1. Cherry picker working



Figure 2. Cones caged on whitebark pine



Figure 3. Whitebark pine cones delivered to CDA Nursery

Year awarded: Initial award in 2009

Project completion: 2010

Report number: 1 of 2

Expenditures (through 10/2009):
FY09 funding \$20,000, expend. \$9,440 with \$10,560 remaining

▪ FY10 funding we hope to get another \$20,000 and plan to expend that plus the \$10,560 left from 2009.

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**Beaverhead-Deerlodge
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