

2010 Whitebark Pine Cone Collection on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

2010 Accomplishments

This project was to collect whitebark pine cones to acquire and increase seed for future out planting on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF. Cones were collected from 20 trees in the Vipond Park area on the Wise River Ranger District. This is a unique area of the forest with some of the last remaining whitebark pine due to the mountain pine beetle epidemic that is occurring on the forest. Bob Hodge, Gary Hertin and Anton Brennick used a cherry picker (Figure 1) to cage the cones (Figure 2) to protect them from Clark's Nutcracker damage. Those activities occurred in July of 2010. Then in the last week of September they went out with the cherry picker and collected the cages and cones. Three bushels of cones were collected (Figure 3) and delivered to the Coeur d'Alene Nursery for grow out and increase.



Figure 1. Cherry picker working.

Whitebark pine is a keystone species in the Northern Rockies that is declining rapidly due to threats from pine bark beetle, blister rust, and global climate change.

Year awarded: Initial award in 2010

Project completion: 2010

Report number: 1

Expenditures (through 10/2010):
FY09 NFN3 funding \$20,000, expend. \$9,440
FY10 NFN3 funding \$10,000, expend. \$9,240

Contact person & phone number:
Bruce Schuelke 406-494-0241



Figure 2. Cones caged on whitebark pine.



Figure 3. Whitebark pine cones delivered to nursery.



**Beaverhead_Deerlodge
National Forest**
SO Annex
1820 Meadowlark Ln
Butte, MT 59701