

Clearwater National Forest WBP Cone Collection, Seed Sowing, and Seedling Growing 2010 Accomplishments

The Native Plant Materials (NFN3) funding was integrated with funding from Forest Health Protection to make three operational whitebark pine (WBP) cone collections on the Powell RD and to purchase WBP seedlings being sown and grown at the Western Forest Systems Nursery in Lewiston, ID.

USFS certified tree climbers installed 1880 wire mesh cages over cones in 97 WBP trees in July of 2010. The climbers returned in September of 2010 to remove the cages and collect the WBP cones. Twenty-eight bushels of WBP cones were collected from the Blacklead, Lolo Motorway, and Beaver Ridge collection areas. These WBP cones were sent to the USFS Coeur d' Alene Nursery in Idaho where the seed will be extracted, cleaned, and placed into storage for future WBP restoration projects.

The NFN3 Native Plant funding also helped to purchase a portion of the 35,600 WBP seedlings that were planted this year in the Rock Garden Fire that burned in 2003 on the Powell RD. Approximately 148 acres were planted with WBP seedlings near Toboggan Ridge.



Photo 1: Two year old WBP seedlings grown at the Western Forest Systems Nursery in Lewiston, ID.



Photo 2: WBP tree with wire mesh cages installed to protect the cones from Clark's nutcracker and squirrels.

Year awarded: 2010

Project completion: 2010

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures (through 10/2009):

\$32,000 NFN3

▪**Total funding \$32,000, total expend \$32,000;**

Partners/contractors/coop: USFS Forest Health Protection; Western Forest Systems Nursery, Lewiston ID; USFS CDA Nursery.

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