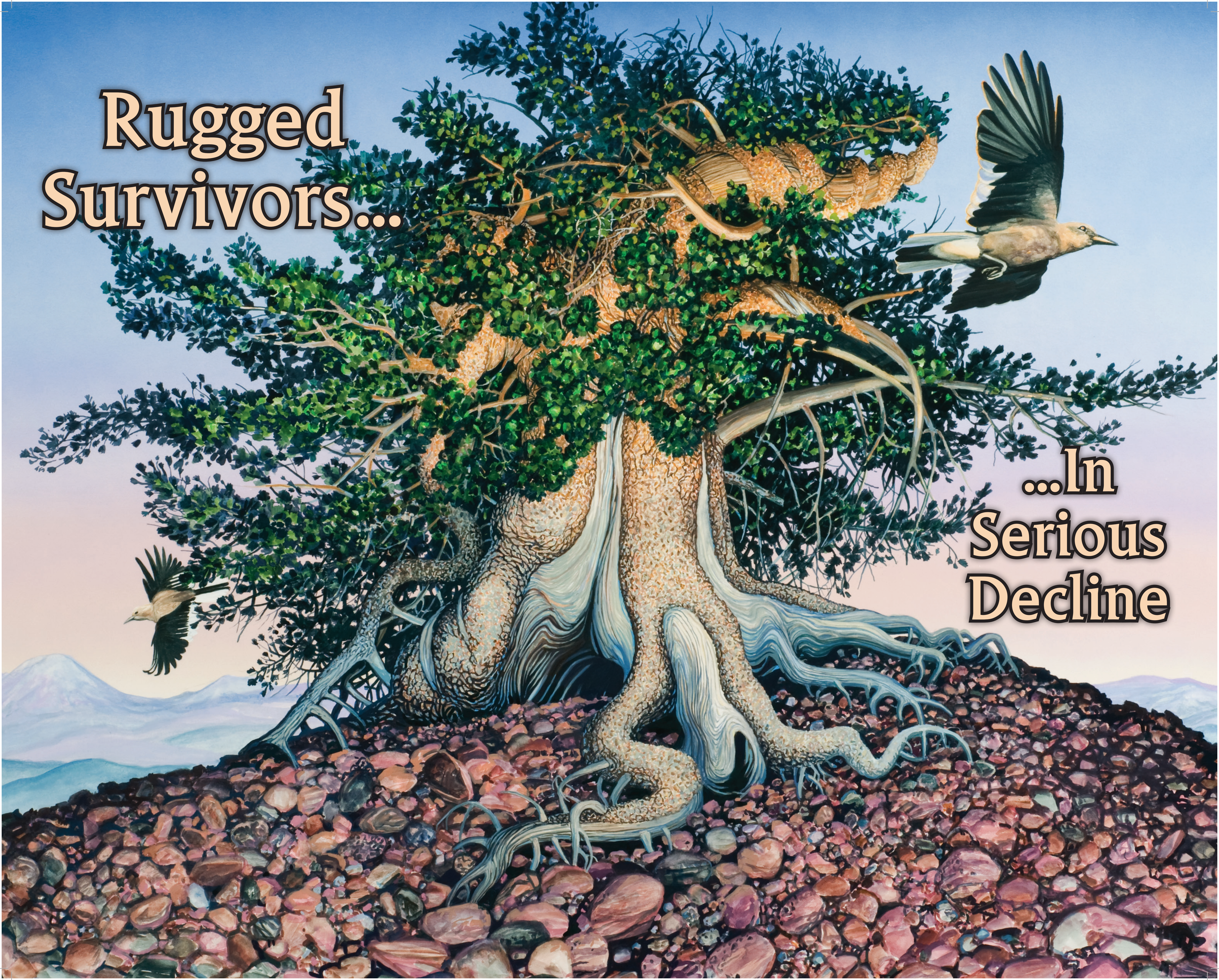


**Rugged
Survivors...**

**...In
Serious
Decline**



Whitebark Pine has one good friend

and several *really bad* enemies

Clark's nutcrackers help these pines survive. Its specialized beak cracks open tough cones and caches seeds below ground for food storage. Seeds not recovered as food grow into future whitebark pine forests.

Whitebark pine is an important alpine tree, often growing at the highest points on the mountains. It provides food and shelter for wildlife and helps stabilize and anchor fragile soils. These trees can live to be over 1000 years old.

Insects and disease are killing trees at an alarming rate. Climate change may also lower seedling survival and increase disease. These threats are causing whitebark pine populations to decline.

Mountain Pine Beetle

Big damage in
a little package



These native beetles mass
attack mature trees leaving
behind skeleton forests.

Clark's Nutcracker

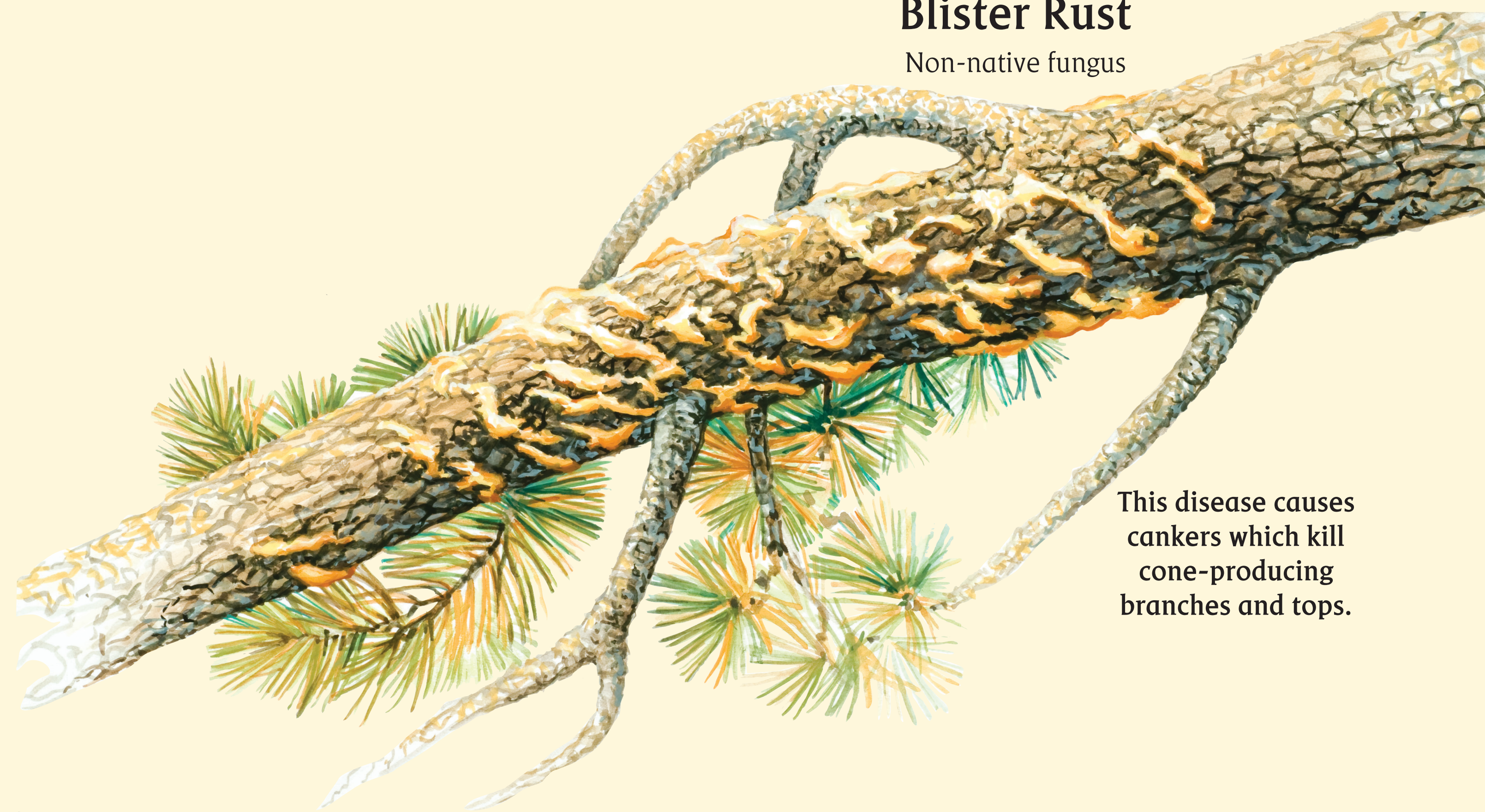
Master seed planter



Needles are in clusters
of five and younger
trees have white,
smooth bark.

White Pine Blister Rust

Non-native fungus



This disease causes
cankers which kill
cone-producing
branches and tops.

