



**USDA Forest Service  
State and Private Forestry  
Forest Health Protection**

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**Whitebark Pine Restoration Projects -2007**

**Background**

Whitebark pine is a keystone species of fragile high elevation ecosystems in R1, R2, R4, R5, R6 and Canada. A recent health assessment found it is at risk throughout most of its range and summarized the threats and long term impacts of continued losses (*Whitebark Pine in Peril: a case for restoration*)<sup>1</sup>. The urgency of the situation has recently increased due to large outbreaks of mountain pine beetle which may kill more than 90% of mature trees including those that may carry resistance to the exotic disease, white pine blister rust.

**Progress to Date**

- Interdisciplinary Whitebark Pine Technical Committee formed in 2007 to solicit, evaluate, and prioritize potential restoration projects for funding
- 56 proposals requesting over \$1,000,000 were received in 2 weeks
  - Proposals came from Regions 5 and 6 as well as 1, 2, and 4, the National Parks, Forest Service Research, Universities, and state agencies.
- 24 proposals representing 5 major restoration strategies were selected for funding based on criteria that included project scope and objectives, cost efficiency and technical merit (see attached table)
- **Nearly \$1,000,000 was allocated to whitebark pine restoration in 2007**
  - \$559,000 to implement the 24 selected projects (in R1, R2, R4, and R6) (see below)
    - \$267,400 in seed money from Forest Health Protection
    - \$291,700 in matching funds from a wide variety of sources
  - \$198,000 of FHP Western Bark Beetle prevention and suppression funds was allocated to prevent potentially rust resistant trees from attacks by mountain pine beetle.
  - \$114,600 of R1 Watershed, Wildlife, Fisheries and Rare Plants funds for selection and testing of whitebark pine for blister rust resistance
  - \$66,000 of FHP Ecosystem Monitoring funds for a whitebark regeneration project in the Frank Church Wilderness by the University of Idaho

The projects funded in 2007 will provide a wealth of information about all facets of whitebark pine restoration which will be of great value in prioritizing further restoration projects. However, successful restoration will require long term support and commitment to implementing restoration strategies across the range of whitebark pine.

<b>Restoration Activity</b>	<b># Projects</b>	<b>\$ Funded</b>	<b>\$ Match</b>
Assessment (Survey & Monitoring)	5	71,600	64,300
Conserving Genetic Diversity (Cone collections)	4	45,600	43,800
Harnessing Natural Resistance (Rust screening)	4	80,700	46,400
Silvicultural Treatments	7	54,000	52,000
Outreach and Research	4	15,500	85,200
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>267,400</b>	<b>291,700</b>

**FHP Whitebark Pine Program Coordinator**

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<sup>1</sup>Available on line at: [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r4/forest-grasslandhealth/?cid=stelprdb5157869](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r4/forest-grasslandhealth/?cid=stelprdb5157869)