



Intermountain and Northern Regions State & Private Forestry Briefing Paper

-- March 2009 --

Topic: Western White Pine Protection & Restoration

Summary:

- Western white pine is a major species critical to the sustainability of forests in the inland northwest
- The extent of western white pine has been reduced about 95% and continues to be impacted by blister rust
- The Forest Service and cooperators have collected over 2,600 pounds of seed from trees resistant to blister rust – enough to plant more than 66,000 acres
- FHP has contributed \$750,000 toward the improvement of rust resistance, in addition to \$1,125,000 from National Forests and \$255,000 from other federal, state, and private partners



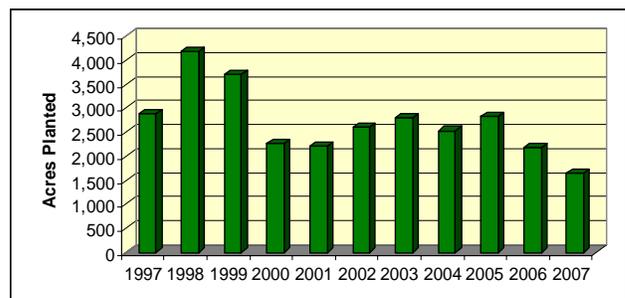
K.D. Swan, 1928

Background:

- Western white pine is ideally suited for the moist environments of the Inland Northwest and historically produced majestic forest stands with old-growth structure covering 5 million acres.
- Western white pine is more resistant to many native insects and diseases than tree species currently on these sites
- The extent of western white pine in this area has been reduced by about 90 to 95 percent because of the introduction of white pine blister rust, fire suppression, and past selective logging.
- Unlike the historic white pine forests, today's forests on these lands are less productive and store less carbon. Our goal is to restore the western white pine to suitable lands in the Inland Northwest.
- Utilizing trees apparently resistant to blister rust, federal and state foresters worked with private landowners in the 1950's to establish a cooperative tree improvement and breeding program.

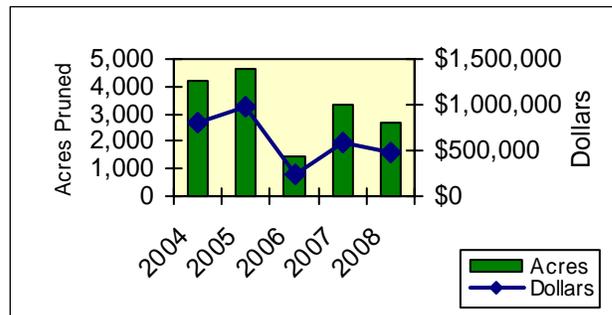
Key Highlights:

- Approximately 1,200 pounds of seed from rust resistant stock ~ a 4 – 7 year supply that will produce nearly 6 million seedlings ~ are currently available for planting 30,000 acres of National Forests System lands. Another 1,450 pounds which equates to 7.25 million seedlings or enough to replant over 36,000 acres, were also collected during the past 5 years for other users.



Acres of National Forest Lands Planted with Western White Pine in Idaho and Montana

- During the past 35 years nearly 300,000 acres were planted with western white pine seedlings with improved resistance in north Idaho and western Montana on National Forests.
- About 3,000 acres of white pine plantations on National Forests have been pruned annually to improve their survival to maturity during the past 5 years.
- Forest Health Protection funds for pruning during the past 5 years (over \$3 million) have been matched with at least \$600,000 from other sources.



Recent Pruning Efforts on National Forests in Idaho and Montana

Future Direction/Needs

- Continue planting rust resistant western white pine, with an emphasis on areas severely damaged by wildfires where openings have been created.
- Create opportunities for natural selection of rust resistance in areas that naturally regenerate with western white pine.
- Continue to improve rust resistance through selective breeding and tree improvement.
- Continue to prune white pine stands and increase pruning to meet the backlog of plantations that benefit from treatment.



More Information

- [Return of the Giants](http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/PDF/SB/SB72.pdf)
<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/PDF/SB/SB72.pdf>
- [White Pine Blister Rust: What you can do to slow the spread](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1-r4/spf/fhp/index.html)
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1-r4/spf/fhp/index.html>
- [Restoring Western White Pines in Idaho and Montana](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1-r4/spf/fhp/publications/byregion/wwpr1.pdf)
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1-r4/spf/fhp/publications/byregion/wwpr1.pdf>

Contact Information		
 <p>STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY Intermountain and Northern Regions</p>	<p>Gregg DeNitto Forest Health Protection Missoula, MT 59807 406-329-3637 gdenitto@fs.fed.us</p>	<p>Von Helmuth Forest Health Protection Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 208-765-7342 vhelmuth@fs.fed.us</p>
	 <p>Healthy Forests Make A World of Difference Forest Health Protection</p>	