

	<p>United States Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Forest Service</p>	<h1 style="text-align: center;">NEWS RELEASE</h1>	<p><b>KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST</b></p> <p>1711 South Main Street, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 841- 6131 <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath">www.fs.usda.gov/klamath</a></p>	
<p>October 19, 2012</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>For Immediate Release</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Contact: Kerry Greene  (530) 841-4485 <a href="mailto:kgreene@fs.fed.us">kgreene@fs.fed.us</a></p>	

## Local Fire Crew Members Help Preserve the Unique Baker Cypress

**Yreka, CA-** Unique in many ways, the Klamath National Forest is one of about eleven geographic locations in the world where the Baker Cypress (*Cupressus bakeri*) tree grows. This tree is only found in Northern California and Southern Oregon and there are 5 known stands on the Klamath National Forest. Most Cypress trees grow at low elevation and in wetter climates, but the Baker Cypress grows at high elevation, drier climates and much farther north than other species of Cypress. Also, it grows best on rocky soil. It's cones require the high heat that usually accompanies a forest fire to open and disperse their seeds.

Dr. Andrew Bower, a tree geneticist for national forests in Oregon is in charge of collecting seeds and foliage from each stand of the Baker Cypress. Dr. Bower writes, "Baker Cypress grows in only a limited number of highly isolated and geographically dispersed populations, which could lead to these populations becoming differentiated from each other in regard to their genetic diversity. Knowing how similar or different these populations are is important for restoration work that might be undertaken."

In an effort to gather genetic material from seven of the different geographic populations of the Baker Cypress, Goosenest Fire Crew members Mary Daniels, Christina Barba, David Selchau and James Roemmelt assisted local Geneticist, Chuck Frank, with gathering cones and foliage in the Baker Cypress stands on the Klamath National Forest. Care was taken to select areas throughout southwestern Oregon and northern California where the range of the species had been identified. Each foliage sample was carefully marked to send to a National Forest Genetics Lab in Placerville, CA. At the lab the samples will be analyzed for genetic diversity and population structure. The cones were sent to the Placerville Nursery where seeds will be extracted from each cone. The seeds will be sent to the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Fort Collins, CO where they will be put in long term cold storage to preserve the genetic material of the species and provide seed for future restoration of the Baker Cypress.

