

Fuels Accomplishment Success Story

Blacklead Whitebark Pine Restoration

Date: 06/28/04

Location: Approximately 8 air miles northwest of Powell

Congressional District: Idaho

Contact person for follow-up questions: Bob Lippincott, Fire Management Officer, Steve Munson, Assistant Fire management Officer, or Vicki Edwards, Fuels Specialist. 208-942-3113.

Acreage: 1,200 acres

Treatment type: Slashing tree species that out-compete whitebark pine and then prescribed burning to treat the slash. Part of the project area was also burned by wildfire.

Partners: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Arbor Day Foundation, and Global Releaf (American Forests Association).

Workforce: Slashing and thinning was accomplished by contract crews and the district fire crew. Prescribed burning was accomplished by fire personnel from local and adjoining districts.

Additional information: This project area is one of seven on the district for whitebark pine restoration. Whitebark pine communities across North Idaho have declined over the last 70 years (estimated mortality rates of 70 to 96 percent). The historical range of whitebark pine communities on the Clearwater NF was far more extensive than the current status. Future sustainability of whitebark pine is threatened by the individual and combined effects of disease (white pine blister rust), insects (mountain pine beetle), fire suppression and successional replacement by more shade-tolerant conifers. Management action is essential to restore the distribution and health of these forest communities.

Photograph(s):



Upper photo: Landscape view of slashed openings after a wildfire



Before and after photo plots