

Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

Project Completion Report FY 2008

Unit: Caribou-Targhee National Forest
Project Name: Caribou-Targhee Whitebark Pine Restoration Strategy
Project Description: A draft whitebark pine restoration strategy was developed for the Caribou-Targhee NF prioritizing areas for restoration. This strategy will lead to the implementation of restoration treatments across the range of whitebark pine on the Forest. This project also provided valuable information to the GYCC whitebark pine committee to use in developing a ecosystem wide restoration strategy. Extensive data collected in whitebark pine stands contributed to the success of developing this strategy. Some valuable lessons were learned in the process and passed on to the rest of units in the GYA to be used in developing their strategy. The restoration strategy for the Caribou-Targhee NF prioritizes whitebark pine restoration on approximately 40,000 acres. Having a restoration strategy in place is a catalyst for the implementation of whitebark pine restoration treatments on the C-T and will increase the likelihood of receiving future funding for restoration treatments. The project provides management recommendations and project implementation direction for whitebark pine; a species that is being threatened by an invasive rust, is predicted to decline due to climate change and provides a critical food source for many bird and mammal species including the grizzly bear. It will help maintain the viability and function of a keystone species in the Greater Yellowstone Area. A range-wide whitebark pine restoration strategy is in the process of being written and will be published in a General Technical Report (GTR) titled <i>A Multiple Scale Restoration Strategy for Whitebark Pine Forests in the Western United States</i> . The Forest-level strategy process described in the draft GTR was tested during this process on the C-T). The completed Forest-level strategy will be used as an example in the GTR.
GYCC Funding Received: \$5,250 Partner Funding/In-Kind Received: \$10,500 Forest Health Protection WBP restoration funds
Status of the Project: The project is complete and used available data for whitebark pine on the Forest. Some lessons were learned and will be applied to the GYA restoration strategy. The information going into the GTR is in draft form and will be completed to meet that deadline.
Products that can be shared across the GYA: (GIS data layers, maps, new protocols and methods) The strategy was tested in the Caribou-Targhee and will be used with a few tweaks by the GYCC whitebark pine committee to develop a GYA strategy starting February 2009. This project will also be used as an example in the GTR mentioned above and could be used as a template for other Forests contemplating whitebark pine restoration.
Project results: (Information worth sharing on methods, results, partnerships, etc) One of the lessons learned during this entire process was to use existing data and local expert knowledge rather than collect more information to inform the strategy.
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Report Date: February 3, 2009
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