



WHITEBARK PINE

FRIENDLY SKI AREA

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation



WHY WHITEBARK PINE?

Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) are aesthetically unique and ecologically important, but are currently declining across much of their high elevation range. Many downhill ski areas in the western US and Canada have whitebark pine on their slopes and provide the most accessible opportunity for people to see these trees.

GOALS AND MOTIVATION

- ➔ **Recognize ski areas** that are leading the way in whitebark pine education, conservation and management
- ➔ **Increase awareness** among ski areas and their patrons of issues surrounding the decline and conservation of whitebark pine
- ➔ **Guide** ski areas in their efforts to educate visitors, conserve and restore whitebark pine
- ➔ **Provide an opportunity** for ski areas and their patrons to become involved in the charge to save whitebark pine



CERTIFICATION DESIGN

EDUCATION

- ⌘ **Educate staff/employees** on whitebark pine ID and ecology
- ⌘ Provide **educational information** to skiers/boarders i.e. Label one or more prominent whitebark pine next to a run or the lift; Offer guided snowshoe walks and summer hikes in which whitebark pine is a topic.

CONSERVATION

- ⌘ Develop a **map** of general whitebark pine distribution
- Incorporate a working **conservation plan** into ski area management plans
- ⌘ Develop and implement a **monitoring protocol** to assess an aspect of whitebark pine abundance or health that is important to the resort





MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND RESEARCH

- ☞ Actively **manage** whitebark pine. Some examples are: pruning, verbenone application, fuel reduction).
- ☞ Identify potential **planting/restoration** sites and, if possible, agree to host **seed collection** activities.
- ☞ Host a whitebark pine ecology **research** or long term **monitoring** project if appropriate.

WPEF SUPPORT

Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation:

- ☞ Serves as a **resource for ski areas** to clarify and provide advice about checklist tasks, and provide information and training on ecology, conservation, and management
- ☞ **Provides regional contacts** (i.e. Government agency experts, whitebark pine scientists) that are capable of assisting resorts with their efforts to meet WPFSA certification requirements;
- ☞ Provides a general **informational poster** about the WPFSA Certification Program and a **certification plaque**;
- ☞ Creates a **WPFSA web page** on WPEF's website which will explain the program and house links to participating ski area's WPFSA pages

FUNDING

Donations and contributions by ski areas are key to a successful certification program. Certification costs for initial certification can be up to \$500, but could be much less with WPEF members volunteering their time. Costs are for the poster, plaque, and record-keeping. WPEF will work with each ski area to implement the program. Certified ski areas are also institutional members of WPEF (\$150/year **membership fee** - optional for non-profits) which includes membership privileges like a subscription to **Nutcracker Notes** magazine. Additional donations of items for WPEF fundraising activities (raffles, pint nights) are always appreciated!

REPORTING and RECERTIFICATION

To retain certification, ski areas will work with WPEF to complete and submit a report every 3 years to the WPEF Ski Area Partnership Committee. The report will give updates about activities and evaluate outcomes of education, conservation and restoration actions as well as provide feedback to WPEF on things like changes to the health whitebark pine, needs for assistance from WPEF, planned changes that may effect whitebark pine.

More Information -

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