

CMP Hi5WG 3rd Annual Meeting Notes

Round Robin Updates

Lolo National Forest: Lost 12 Plus trees in fires, but best ones have been cloned into orchard. Lost 1300 acres of WBP in fires. Got 31 bushels of cones from 40 trees. Did an outplanting of 10,000 WBP, and planning another 10,000 this spring.

Glacier NP: Got tree climbers recertified, 146 verbonone packets on WB/LP. Did some scion collection from 4 Plus trees, did some cone collection for both species. Planted 1,000 seedlings, so close to 2 acres of restoration. Will be receiving burned area emergency rehab (BAER) dollars to do additional WB planting

BLM: Missoula field office: Did some cone collection, also assisted CSKT to do some cone collection. In Butte field office, did a bunch of inventory work, found some WB, but mostly LP.

CSKT: Had a crew of interns this year and they did a bunch of recon, they scouted 9,000 acres of WBP habitat. Caged 23 trees, had 2 climbers get certified. Six trees were climbed, got 8 bushels of cones. Still have seedlings in the nursery. Had 2017 Liberty fire, and found 100 acres of lost WBP habitat. Still figuring out what to do – don't have seedbank built up fully yet.

BC FLNRO: Coordinating rust screening – got 37 Plus(candidate) trees. Had huge cone crop this year, record-setting. Have lots of cones and seeds. Had a training to establish long-term monitoring plots. We often have WBP in timber base lands, so some logging is happening in WBP. Have a grad student studying how well WBP does when it is retained in the middle of a timber sale. Hoping to develop BMPs. Also, sat down with SE fire management team, and went over BMPs for fire in WBP, which Bob Keane and Jed Cochrane (Parks Canada) worked on.

Flathead NF: Planted 106 acres – part of a collaborative effort w/ DNRC – funded with CLFR funds as well as American Forests. Planning to plant ~250 acres between 2019-2021. Sent out press release on project, which mentioned Hi5WG. This was picked up by one reporter *Melissa to send this to CMP (Linh/Regan). Caged 90 trees (but that includes CSKT trees). Good cone crop this year. Rick: when you ride Big Mountain lift, you can see caged trees. Work with resort to feature this on their website for people to understand this work. Doing cooperative work with Glacier on tree climbing.

Randy Moody (BC): Province wide, collected on over 400 trees, maybe around 80 in the CCE. Also did scion collection on probably 6 trees, and these got sent to Vernon. CanFor planted 3500 seedlings, which is first time major company has done this, thanks to a policy change that now has WBP as acceptable species to plant. This is major first step by biggest timber company. Teck/CanFor/BC Park/American Forests have all put funding into WBP work in BC. Ski area certification program of the WBEF has Castle Mtn tagged for certification – this resort is in the Crown. Lake Louise is also interested in getting certified (they are in Banff). WBEF looking for other ski areas interested in certification.

Waterton Lakes NP: Fires destroyed 50% of vegetated area in 2017 – lost resistant LPs. Collected between 20-30 WBP and 10-20 LP thanks to a good cone year. Got about 5,000 seedlings into the ground in burned areas – but many of previous plantings did get burned. Did a LP planting w/ Castle Park to the north with some non-resistant seeds just to see how they do with survivability. Parks Canada just did 5-year application for funding for \$6M to focus on those two species, will learn in January if this is successful. This is focused on finding Plus trees – the money would be distributed across the Parks.

WBEF: Join. Plus Nutcracker Notes distributed twice a year.

Opportunities for Coordination

- Cycle 6 WBP test locations for Flathead’s work – possible locations are Boundary Fire in GNP and/or Waterton NP
- Flathead has 4,000 excess seedlings for Flathead NF – Waterton NP could take them all. Dawn at GNP will help facilitate that transfer. CSKT would also like seedlings. They are at Coeur d’Alene USFS Nursery. Lolo NF is also interested. Flathead has 25,000 seedlings, so perhaps they can share more.
- Tree-climbing certification – these trainings can work with non-government folks. Glacier and Flathead NF will look at getting someone(s) trained as an instructor, so we have an instructor in the Crown. CSKT has a climber who would be very interested in getting his instructor certification. Ellen will work with Joe to see if he can do instructor/climber training up in CCE (e.g., not Missoula only). Ellen will send out information on cert trainings.
- Forest Health Protection grant ideas:
 - Sow & grow – have lots of wildfire opportunities for planting
 - Elliott Meyer willing to write proposal. Will need to decide on locations for planting. Seedlings would be available in 2022. Elliot will reach out to Tony, Rob, Dawn, and Carly. WNP can show matching funds. Sowing is biggest expense, would be good to show matching for sowing. Ellen will help Elliott, partners are CSKT, Lolo, Flathead, GNP, Waterton.

Review of Work

CCE Cone Collection project: Elliot Meyer, Flathead NF: A project was submitted to the USFS Forest Health Protection grant program. The goal of this project is to create a seed bank specifically intended for collaborative restoration projects. Partners are: Flathead National Forest, Lolo National Forest, Glacier National Park, CSKT, MT DNRC, BLM – Missoula Field Office. Focusing on 40 tree collection; collections are occurring in 2018-2020. \$11,635 was awarded for the project with \$11,057 of agency matching funds. Access issues along with long distances are challenges of the project. Partner collaboration was with BLM. AS of Year 1: 30 out of 40 collections have been completed. Approximately 10 bushels of cones were sent to the Coeur d’Alene Nursery. This should generate approximately 100,000 seedlings.

Fire Management Strategy Working Group: Rick Connell for Bob Keane: This working group has approximately 25 contributors. The strategy addresses general management actions for managing wildfire in WBP ecosystems. Management actions are to reduce mortality, reduce competition, increase habitat for Clark's Nutcracker and ensure spatial resilience in face of climate change. The strategy provides guidelines for dealing with prescribed fire and/or wildfire situations. The full written report is posted on the CMP website.

Best Management Practices (Industry) Working Group: Randy Moody. The group is developing working best management practices when working with logging and mining companies. There is currently logging and mining operations in WBP but there are no guidelines on how to mitigate impacts. The guidelines address how to work with industry and industry guidelines to provide for WBP recovery. The BMPs are Canada centric and address Canada's Federal Recovery Strategy.

Database Management Working Group: Greg DeNitto. Working on a Hi5 database. Data from the literature has been gathered dating back to the early 2000s.

Key priorities for 2019

Fire Working Group:

- Rick Everett (part of Northern Rockies Fire Network) will be in touch with Bob Keane to work with Vita Wright on distribution of wildfire paper.
- Would be great to have a poster on the paper for the CMP March Forum on fire.

Database Working Group:

- Linh/CMP to look into a data manager to help input data in Hi5 database. A longer-term data steward is what is really needed.

Communications Working Group:

- It's a possibility that the next CMP Conservation Priorities Coordinator could run point on the Communications subcommittee. Also, the WBEF is eager to partner with us to push things out when/where that makes sense.

Elections for Leadership Team: Melissa Jenkins has served her term as the US co-chair. Thank you so much for dedication and leadership! She will continue on with the Tech Working Group to the conclusion of the contract. Dawn LaFleur will be moving into Melissa's position; serving as co-chair with Brad Jones. Randy Moody is the vice-co-chair for Canada and will continue in the role until next year when he will fill Brad's role as Co-chair. Nominations were sought for the US vice-chair. Karl Anderson was unanimously chosen for the position. These changes are effective as of Nov 2018.

National Whitebark Pine Restoration Plan: Melissa explained the progress of the WBPEF strategies to move forward with a Nationwide WBP Restoration strategy. It was also explained

how we at Hi5 are initiating the creation of a restoration strategy through the work currently being accomplished by the Technology Working Group.

Restoration Strategy Workshop: The rest of the afternoon was spent getting up to speed with where the project contractors – MapMonsters – are with the project. Working on a WBP distribution map for the pilot study group: Flathead National Forest, CSKT and Glacier National Park. Examples of criteria that could be used to prioritize restoration/conservations were presented and discussed by the group.