

## Monitoring Limber Pine Health in the Rocky Mountains

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Limber pines are well distributed within the Rocky Mountains and are especially important because of their unique cultural and ecological characteristics; however, recent surveys have suggested that significant ecological impacts may occur as the result of white pine blister rust (WPBR) and other damaging agents. Additionally, several new WPBR infestations have been discovered within the Rocky Mountain Region and the disease front in northern Colorado is within 10 miles of Rocky Mountain National Park. Past studies have provided critical information on the distribution and intensity of the disease but we have little information on the long-term changes that will result from this invasive disease. The purpose of this study is to assess the long-term ecological health of limber pine within WPBR-infested and threatened areas of the Rocky Mountains and to provide baseline information necessary to sustain, protect, and restore limber pine stands in the Rocky Mountains. In 2006, we installed 36 long-term limber pine health monitoring plots in northern Colorado and southern Wyoming. In 2007, we installed 29 plots on the Shoshone and Bighorn NFs in Wyoming, 16 plots on various ownerships in central Montana, and 2 plots in North Dakota. Data analysis and reporting will commence in 2008.