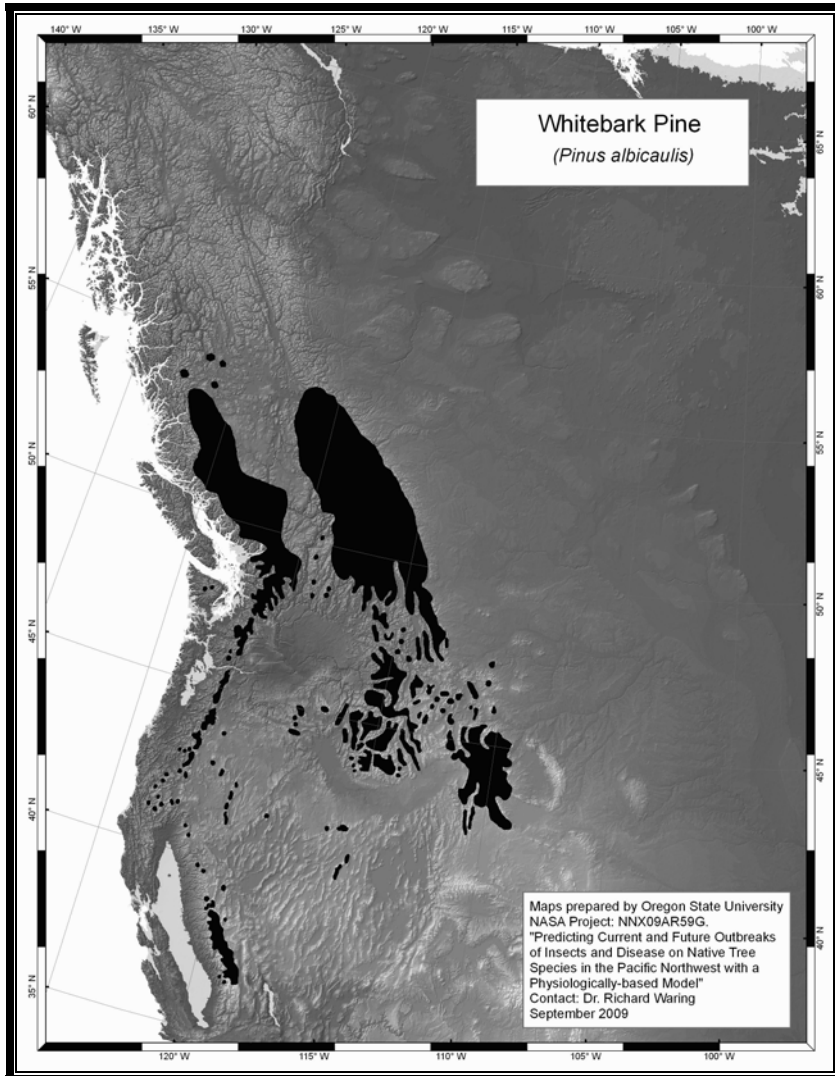


Species Silvics

Scientific Name: *Pinus albicaulis*

Common name: Whitebark pine



Climate:

Whitebark pine grows in the subalpine of North America's western mountain ranges. These areas receive most of their precipitation as snow and the soils are generally rocky and can be somewhat dry during the growing season. Whitebark pine requires moderate soil nutrient levels but grows best on richer sites.

Bark

Young trees have smooth white bark which becomes scaly and dark brown with age.

Foliage

Needles grown in bundles of 5 about 4-9cm long. The needles are curved to a slightly sharp point and found mainly near branch ends.

Wood and form

Tree form can vary from a shrub-type form to a smallish single stemmed tree to 20m tall dependant on conditions. Branches are usually upswept. Wood from the trees is soft and light.

Ecology

Whitebark pines are valued for their contribution to mountain animal diets through their large (1cm) seeds. Birds, small mammals, and bears all utilize this food source. They are often one of the few available shelter species for animals in the subalpine.

Uses

Whitebark pine is a non-timber species and is valued for its snow and soil holding, wildlife support, aesthetic, and watershed roles.