



WHITEBARK PINE
ECOSYSTEM
FOUNDATION OF CANADA

2025 Annual Report



Restoration Conservation Recovery

Foreword

Through collaboration and on-the-ground action, 2025 delivered real progress for whitebark and limber pine, restoring habitat, strengthening resilience, and laying groundwork for long-term conservation success.



Our Strategic Pillars:

Our strategic pillars were refreshed in 2025 to reflect our impact to date and to clearly guide our future priorities and goals.





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Introduction

In 2025, momentum continued across all areas of our work. Record cone collection, our most ambitious planting season, and the largest budget in our history underscored both the scale of our impact and the strength of our organization. With stability and capacity at the forefront, we advanced whitebark and limber pine restoration across Canada while investing in long-term organizational growth and improvement.

These gains position us not only to respond to urgent ecological need, but to do so effectively, responsibly, and at scale.



Our Core Values:



Impact
&
Excellence



Ecological
Integrity &
Species
Recovery



Science-
Based
Decision
Making



Collaboration
&
Coordination



People
&
Community

Our WHY

Why Whitebark Pine Matters

Whitebark pine is a keystone species. It supports mountain ecosystems, regulates snowpack and water flow, and provides food and habitat for wildlife. When whitebark pine declines, entire ecosystems are affected. Across Canada, this species is disappearing, leaving behind fragile landscapes and ghost forests of standing dead trees.

Why We're Losing These Forests

Whitebark and limber pine are declining due to compounding pressures:

- White Pine Blister Rust – an introduced disease and the primary cause of widespread mortality
- Wildfire & Climate Change – hotter, more frequent fires and drought stress
- Mountain Pine Beetle – expanding into higher elevations
- Human Expansion & Fire Suppression – disrupting natural regeneration

Without intervention, recovery is unlikely.

Why This Is Also a Story of Hope

Some whitebark and limber pine trees are naturally resistant to blister rust. These survivors give us a pathway forward. By collecting seed, growing resistant seedlings, and restoring damaged sites, we can rebuild resilient forests, but only if action happens now.

Why We Do This Work

We do this work because:

- Whitebark and limber pine ecosystems are still recoverable
- Genetic diversity must be protected before it's lost
- Restoration today prevents irreversible loss tomorrow

Every resistant seed planted is an investment in healthy, resilient mountain landscapes for generations to come.



Accomplishments

We capitalized on British Columbia's first mast year in nearly a decade, leveraging an extraordinary moment for long-term restoration. Powered by a dedicated staff, an engaged volunteer Board, trusted contractors, committed partners, and active members, we advanced restoration at a scale that will drive ecosystem recovery for years to come. We are proud to share our progress in protecting whitebark and limber pine, iconic high-elevation species that sustain biodiversity, regulate water systems, and strengthen the resilience of mountain ecosystems.

160 ha
Ecosystems Restored

34,500
Cones Collected

170,000+
Disease-resistant
seedlings planted

3,000+
Trees Health Assessed



Ecosystems Restored

Restoration work focused on recovering five-needle pine ecosystems in disturbed areas, burn sites, and other high-value habitats. Activities included planting, thinning, mountain pine beetle treatments, and creating conditions that support long-term ecosystem resilience and biodiversity.



Cones Collected

Mast year = major momentum for restoration.

In a record production year, cones were collected from plus and elite whitebark pine trees across British Columbia and Alberta. Harvesting was carefully managed to leave ample cones on-site for wildlife and natural nutrient cycling, while strengthening seed banks and expanding future planting capacity.



Seedlings Planted

Disease-resistant seedlings from plus and elite trees were planted across British Columbia and Alberta in suitable ecosystems. Plantings focused on burn sites, disturbed areas, and favorable microhabitats to support whitebark pine recovery and the critical role this species plays in ecosystem resilience.



Trees Health Assessed

We monitored whitebark pine health across British Columbia and Alberta, tracking white pine blister rust, mountain pine beetle, and other emerging forest health concerns. This work helps inform management decisions and guide ongoing restoration efforts.



Seed Orchard

2025 marked a strong year of establishment and progress at the Elkhart Whitebark Pine Seed Orchard. The site remains in excellent condition, with low brush competition and minimal disturbance. A total of 159 trees are alive, with 80% exhibiting good to medium vigour. The earliest plantings are particularly well established, showing strong growth, healthy physiology, and good needle retention, indicating the orchard is on a solid trajectory toward long-term productivity.

Orchard assessments this year highlighted important readiness for the next phase of development. Rootstock surveys identified 154 graftable trees, a significant milestone that positions the orchard for expanded field grafting. While survival of trees planted in 2024 was lower than earlier cohorts, this was consistent with the initial condition of planting stock and does not detract from overall orchard performance.

Looking ahead to 2026, the focus will be on filling the orchard and advancing establishment while maintaining site health. Priorities include initiating field grafting on suitable rootstock, continuing irrigation while site occupancy remains low, and completing targeted maintenance such as fertilization, pruning, limited replanting, and minor brush control. These actions will support steady orchard expansion and strengthen the foundation for future seed production.

In June 2026, a volunteer planting event will add hundreds of new trees, marking a major step forward in building a resilient, productive seed orchard.

2024 Financial Results

WHITEBARK PINE ECOSYSTEM FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2024, with comparative information for 2023

	2024	2023
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 182,469	\$ 88,518
Accounts receivable	36,209	71,041
Goods and services taxes receivable	19,351	34,815
Inventories	33,829	271,836
	\$ 271,858	\$ 466,210
Liabilities		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 83,196	\$ 55,164
Deferred revenue	138,899	233,745
	222,095	288,909
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	49,763	177,301
	\$ 271,858	\$ 466,210

Financial Highlights

Financial Performance

- Drop in assets expected due to seeds being moved into production
- Surpassed \$1 million in total revenues
- Highest total revenue and grant funding in WPEFC history
- Highest year-end closing cash balance to date
- Approximately 88% of expenses supported by project funding
- Fiscal year-end 2024 administration balance of \$118,000 in unrestricted admin
- Net income of \$15,623

Key Accomplishments

- Completed full financial assessment of 2018 to 2023
- Established dedicated administration and overhead fund
- Implemented improved project finance tracking systems
- Developed improved organizational operational budget
- Improved accuracy and reliability of financial records
- Completed year-end and tax reporting ahead of schedule





NEW WPEFC Board Members!

Elections were held for the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation of Canada (WPEFC) Board of Directors in 2025. We are pleased to welcome two new Directors-at-Large and a new Secretary to the Board. See their bios on our website!

- Connor Fitzpatrick – Secretary
- Lindy Lin – Director-at-Large
- Corinna Strauss – Director-at-Large

We also congratulate Jeremy Greenberg, who was re-elected as Director-at-Large for another term. Thank you to our incredible Board of Directors!

2025 Board of Directors

President / Chair	Randy Moody
Vice-President / Co-Chair	Jodie Krakowski
Treasurer	Robin Gutsell
Membership Coordinator	Michael Murray
Secretary	Connor Fitzpatrick
Director-at-Large	Jeremy Greenberg
Director-at-Large	Natalie Stafl
Director-at-Large	Kathryn Young
Director-at-Large	David Walker
Director-at-Large	Lindy Lin
Director-at-Large	Corinna Stauss



Partners in Restoration

This work would not be possible without our members, Board of Directors, partners, stakeholders, and our incredible contractors, whose dedication and expertise make a real difference. We are grateful to our government partners, BC Government, Parks Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and the Alberta Government, as well as our generous funders and collaborators. Together, we are making a lasting impact in the restoration and conservation of whitebark and limber pine ecosystems.





2026 Whitebark & Limber Pine Conference: Restoration, Research, and Community

The 2026 Conference and Gathering will celebrate collaboration, research, and restoration of whitebark and limber pine. This event will bring together researchers, restoration practitioners, government and industry partners, Indigenous knowledge holders, students, volunteers, and community members to share field-based restoration practices, new research findings, and strategies for conserving these keystone species.

 JUL 17 Dates: October 14–15, 2026

 Location: Radium Hot Springs, BC

 Registration: Open mid-March 2026

Conference Highlights:

- October 14: Presentations, talks, workshops, and networking opportunities.
- October 15: Field trips to on-site restoration projects and hands-on learning experiences.

Get involved! Help plan the conference, submit a presentation, offer support, or make a donation, email us at info@whitebarkpine.ca to join the effort.

This conference will be a unique opportunity to connect, learn, and strengthen the collective impact of whitebark and limber pine conservation across Canada.



WHITEBARK PINE ECOSYSTEM FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation of Canada

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The WPEFC is a registered non-profit in British Columbia and has extra provincial registration in Alberta.

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