



National Whitebark Pine Restoration Plan

Strategic Plan Approach and Vision

**Diana F. Tomback
WPEF**



Inyo National Forest, CA

Rationale

- Whitebark pine health is deteriorating rapidly.
- The widespread decline in whitebark pine comes from an unprecedented combination of threats and requires timely management intervention.
- Restoration of whitebark pine poses logistical and fiscal challenges, given the magnitude of its distribution and budgetary constraints.
- These challenges require a strategic approach to restoration, emphasizing designated “core” areas, which will have the highest priority for restoration activities.

Objective

- American Forests, the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation, and the U.S. Forest Service are partnering to develop a core area restoration plan for the U.S. distribution of whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*).
- Collaboration includes all federal and state agencies and tribes with whitebark pine under their jurisdiction.
- This strategic plan will identify selected areas within the U.S. range of whitebark pine for priority restoration, focusing resources.

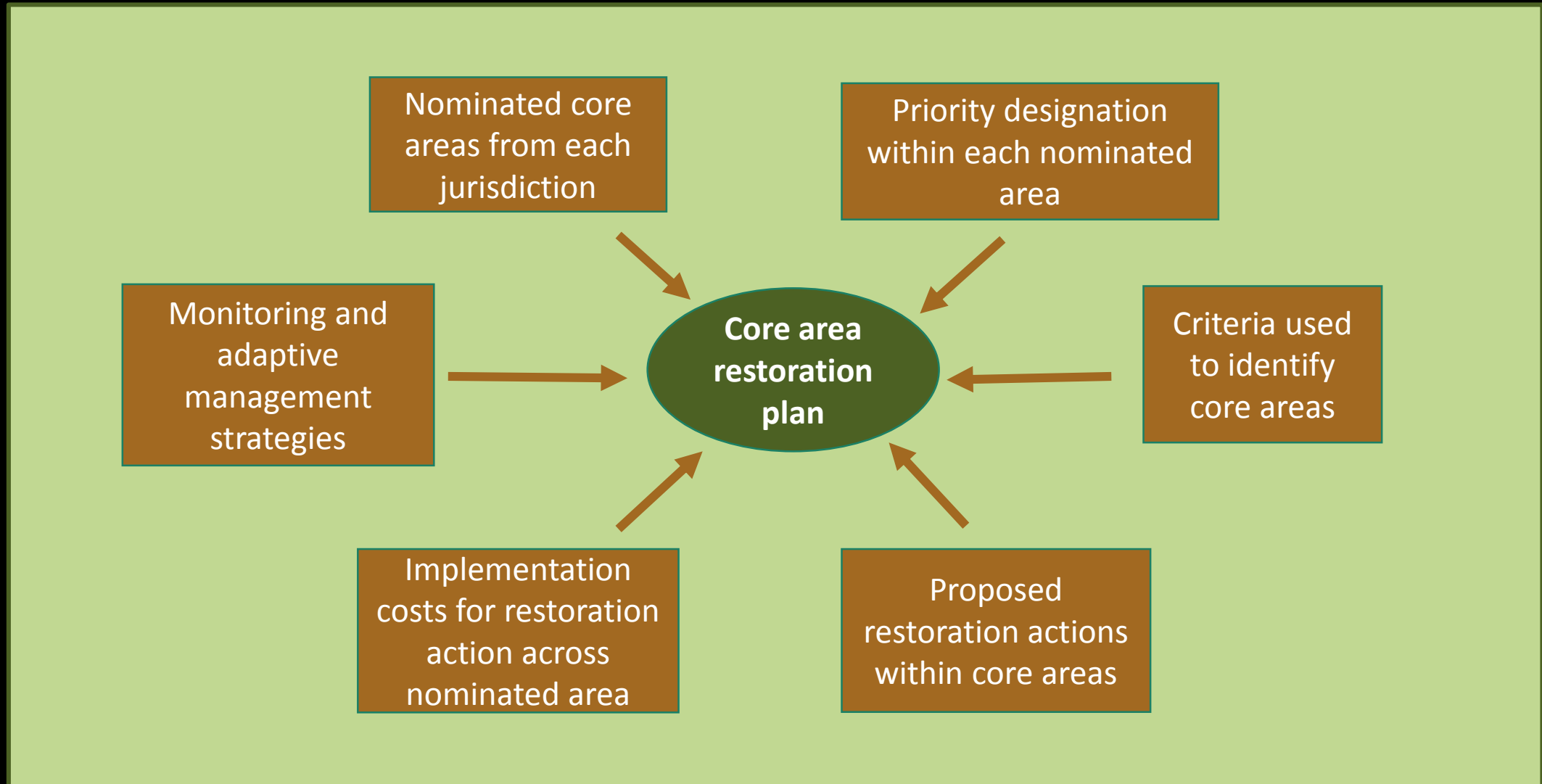
Anticipated components to the plan

- A geographic restoration plan (GIS layer) depicting nominated core areas for each administrative jurisdiction within different agencies, based on agency-specific criteria.
- Priority designations within each core area (1 through 3).
- Nominated core areas will represent about 20% to 30% of whitebark pine's distribution in any administrative unit.
- Narrative for each administrative jurisdiction includes criteria used to identify core areas, and specific restoration protocols assigned to nominated core areas.
- Estimated implementation costs for these restoration protocols across prioritized areas.
- Monitoring and adaptive management substrategy.

Overview of process and products



Components to plan



Scope of work: Phase I

Collaborative engagement. Outreach by letter by the Washington Office of the US Forest Service to the NPS, BLM, US F&WS, tribal governments, and state agencies describing process and timetable.

Survey, workshop, and discussion groups.

- **Online survey**. This survey helped determine gaps in information on whitebark pine distribution and health status and the resources needed to fill gaps. **Completed.**
- **Conservation and restoration— Best management practices workshop**: Experts on different restoration actions provided their view on implementation of various practices. **Completed.**
- **Regional discussion groups (Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, NPS)**: Teleconferences with regional offices and the NPS. Presented a series of questions to ascertain current projects, plans, and thinking about whitebark pine. **Completed (but open to additional groups)**

Scope of work: Phase II

National Summit, in progress

- Brings together high level representatives and resource managers from the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish & Wildlife Service, and tribal governments.
- The major emphasis is on the rationale and conceptual basis for the proposed strategic plan, the development of selection criteria for core areas, and the description of the process.

>After the summit, there will be a formal request for nominated core areas from all jurisdictions.

Scope of work: Phase III

Tele-conference core area workshop. Early/late February, 2018. TBA

- This will provide an informal opportunity to answer questions and provide feedback concerning the process of identifying potential core areas.
- We can help agencies and units as they identify appropriate criteria for nominating core areas, assigning restoration actions and protocols, and information gaps.

Scope of work: Phase IV

Compile National Restoration Plan

- The Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation and Forest Service partners, in consultation with American Forests, will integrate core area information as it is received, as well as other important information, into the range-wide (national) restoration plan.
- The final plan will be reviewed by all partners.
- Comments will be integrated as the final plan is drafted.

Scope of work: Phase V

Present Plan to Leadership, December 2018

- Present final plan and begin discussions of implementation strategies.
- US Forest Service, American Forests, and the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation will reconvene participants from the 2017 Whitebark Pine Leadership Summit to present the final restoration plan.
- We will begin conversations about funding and devising an implementation plan.

Final products

- Conservation Restoration Management Actions: Best Management Practices summary-WPEF
- General Technical Report: National Whitebark Pine Restoration Plan-WPEF
- Summary for public outreach-AF

These products should provide the basis for a strategic prioritized restoration approach for each federal agency and tribal jurisdiction.

- These products signal the beginning of restoration work.
- Restoration implementation will still require collaboration, partnerships, and outreach.

>>These final products are just the beginning of the real work.

Developing the data sets needed for the National Whitebark Pine Restoration Strategy (NWPRS)

Bob Keane
USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Research Station
Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory



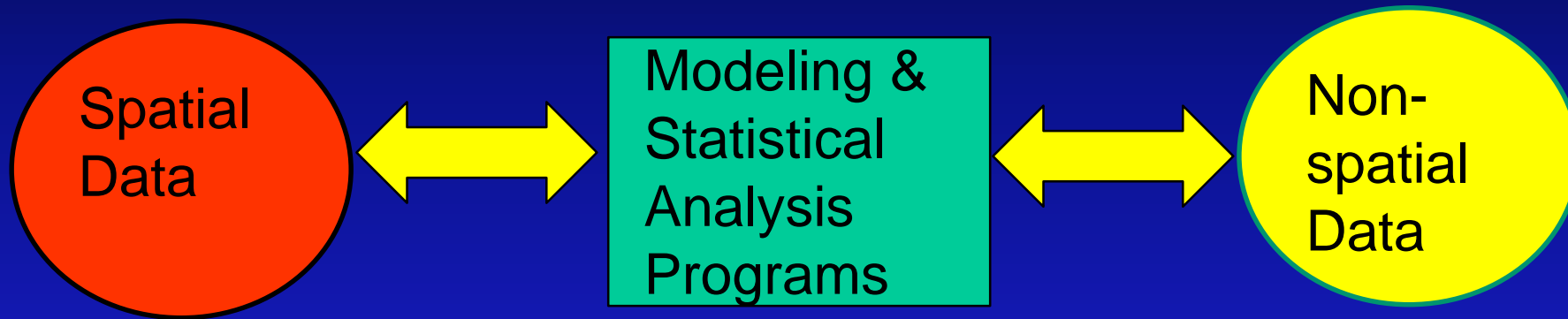
The National Strategy

Major Deliverable:

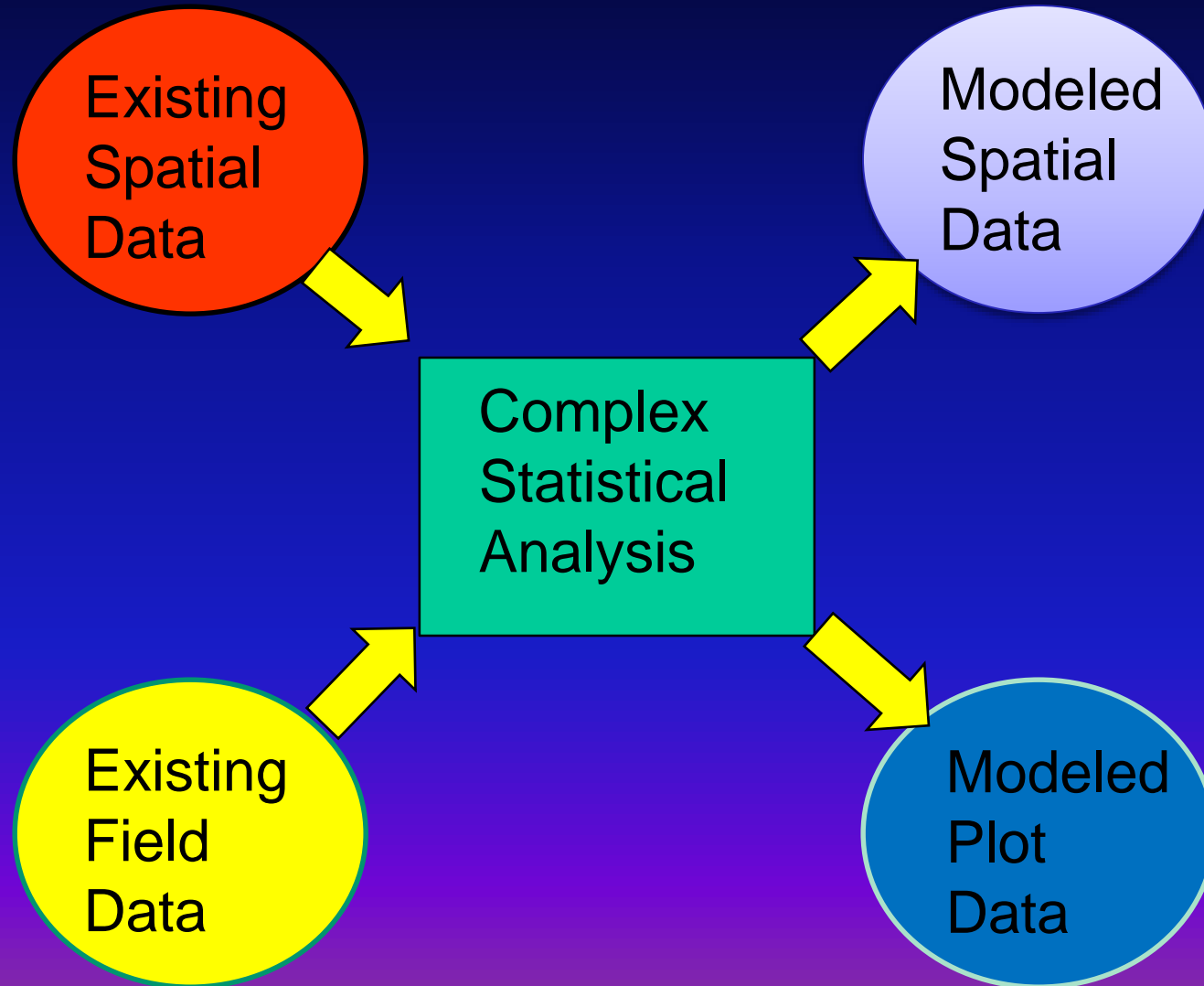
Prioritization of areas for restoration at multiple scales

Demands a scientifically credible approach based on empirical data and comprehensive statistical analyses

National WBP Strategy Database



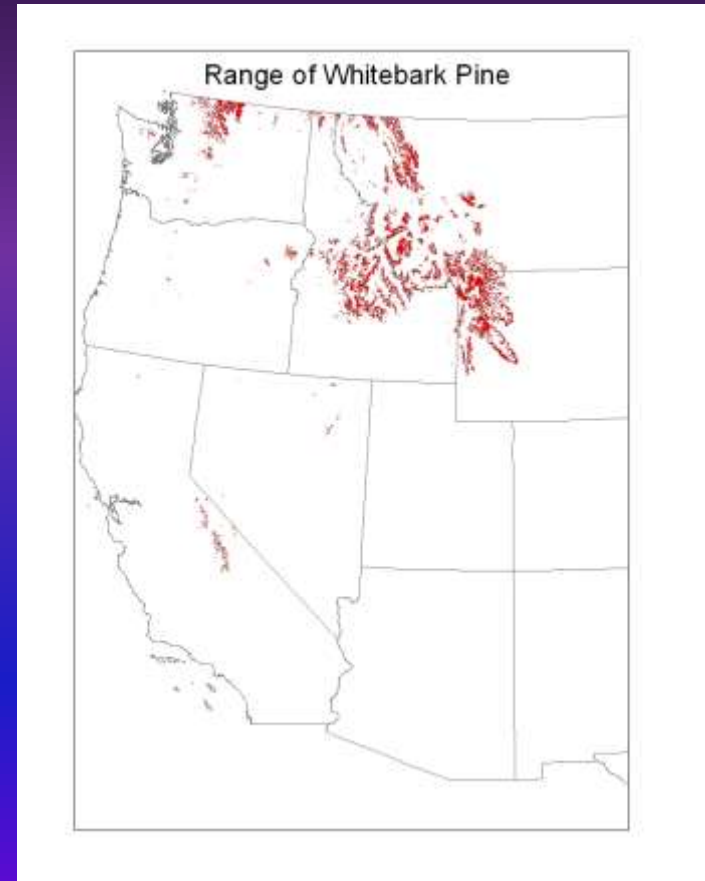
National WBP Strategy Database Development



NWPRS Database

Target scale of analysis

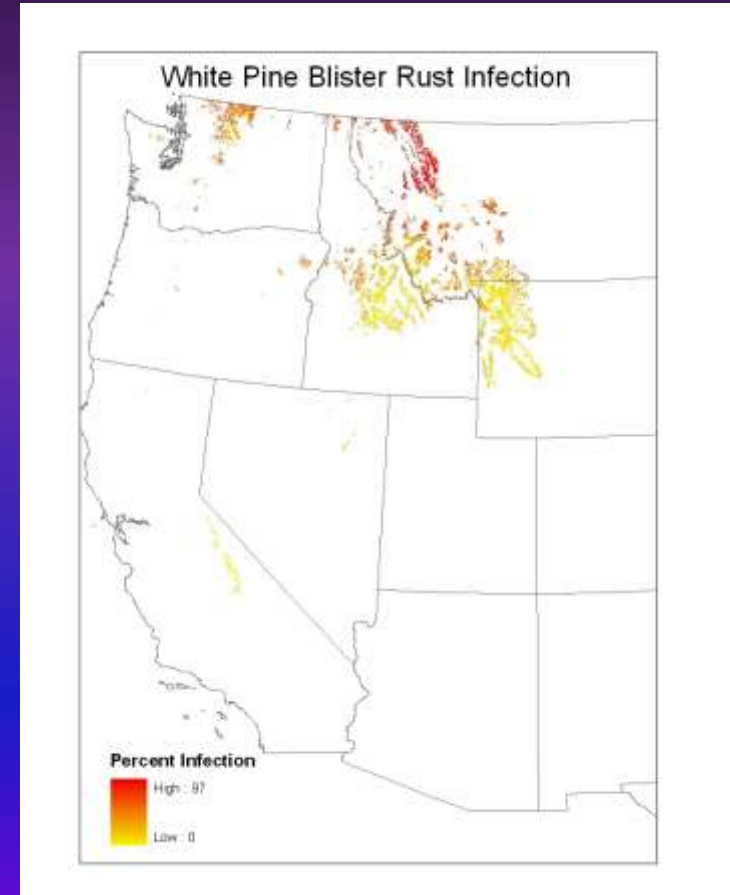
- ✓ **Wall to Wall**
- ✓ **Map resolutions**
 - ✓ 1 km (30 m) pixel
- ✓ **Analysis unit**
 - ✓ 6th code HUC
- ✓ **Summary units**
 - ✓ District
 - ✓ Nat Forest, Park, etc
 - ✓ Region
 - ✓ Range



NWPRS Database

Existing Spatial Data

- ✓ **Multiple resolutions**
 - ✓ 1 km, 30 m, 100 m
- ✓ **Wall to wall**
- ✓ **Represent all important factors**
- ✓ **Include climate change layers**
- ✓ **Includes existing modeled layers**
- ✓ **Probably won't include Canada**

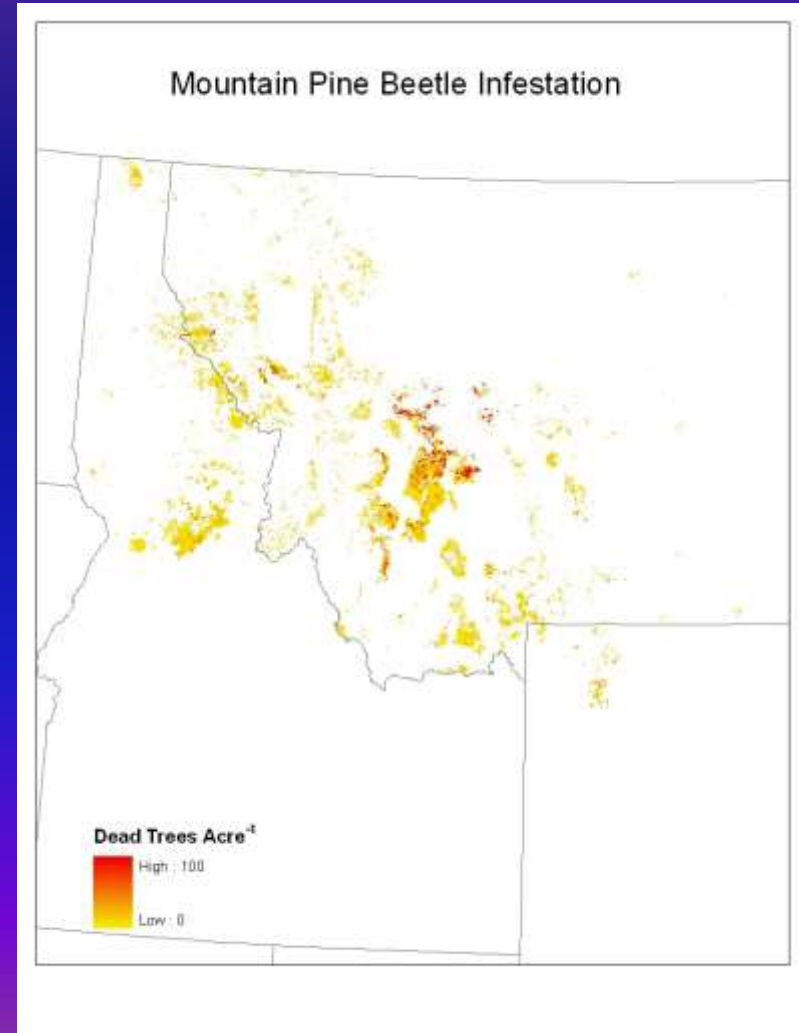


Final Product: A GIS library of all the layers needed to prioritize landscapes across the range of whitebark pine

NWPRS Database

Spatial Data from the field

- ✓ **WPEF developed layers**
 - ✓ **Contains all information submitted from the field**
 - ✓ **Synthesizes that information for use in the prioritization process**
 - ✓ **Documents available databases and spatial data layers**



NWPRS Database

Planned application

- ✓ Integrate spatial data layers into a Decision-Support System (DSS)
- ✓ Use the EMDS system
- ✓ Available free



Web site: <http://emds.mountain-viewgroup.com/>