Stanislaus National Forest

Whitebark Pine Pilot Fieldwork Report

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Photo on cover page: Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) stands in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness

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Background

Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) is a long-lived and slow-growing tree found in upper montane to subalpine forests of southwestern Canada and the western United States. It regularly defines upper treeline and co-occurs with other conifers. Of the approximately 250,000 acres wherewhitebark pine forms pure stands in California, >95% is on public land, often in remote wilderness settings on National Forest and Park lands; however, the acreage of the pine's presence in the state is much greater (see Figure 1).

Across the state, the species is found from 1,830 m – 4,240 m (6,000 ft-13,899 ft) in the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, Warner, and Klamath mountains where it is an outlier of a much broader range (Arno and Hoff 1989, Murray 2005) from the more contiguous Rocky Mountains and Cascades in western North America. Within this range, the species prefers cold, windy, snowy, and generally moist zones. In the moist areas of the Klamath and Cascades, it is most abundant on the warmer and drier sites. In the more arid Warner Mountains and in the Sierra Nevada, the species prefers the cooler north-face slopes and more mesic regions. But some of these phytogeographic patterns are shifting.

Western coniferous forests are currently undergoing large-scale changes in composition and distribution. These changes are due to shifts in the following: climate regimes, insect and fungal pathogen distributions, fire return intervals, fire severity/intensity, and logging practices—among others. High elevation five-needle pines have been harbingers for climate change for millions of years, and because high-elevation ecosystems are likely to be the first to register the impacts of global climate change (Bunn et al. 2005), surveying high elevation five-needle pine is a way to catalog trends in vegetation and climatic shifts.

Unlike other five-needle pines, whitebark pine is set apart in that its cone does not open at maturity and its seed is "wingless"; consequently, they are solely dependent on Clark's nutcrackers (*Nucifraga columbiana*) for seed distribution and future seedling recruitment. The birds open the cone, collect the seeds, and cache them. Inevitably, around 20% of the seeds are forgotten or moved by other animals (Lanner 1996) and, in the years following, clumps of whitebark pine saplings grow from these "forgotten" caches. These two species are keystone mutualists, where the loss of one species would have a profound impact upon the ecosystem as a whole.

Whitebark pine (WBP) is currently the most susceptible of the five-needle pines to mortality due to the combined effects of climate change-induced disturbance. Mortality across much of

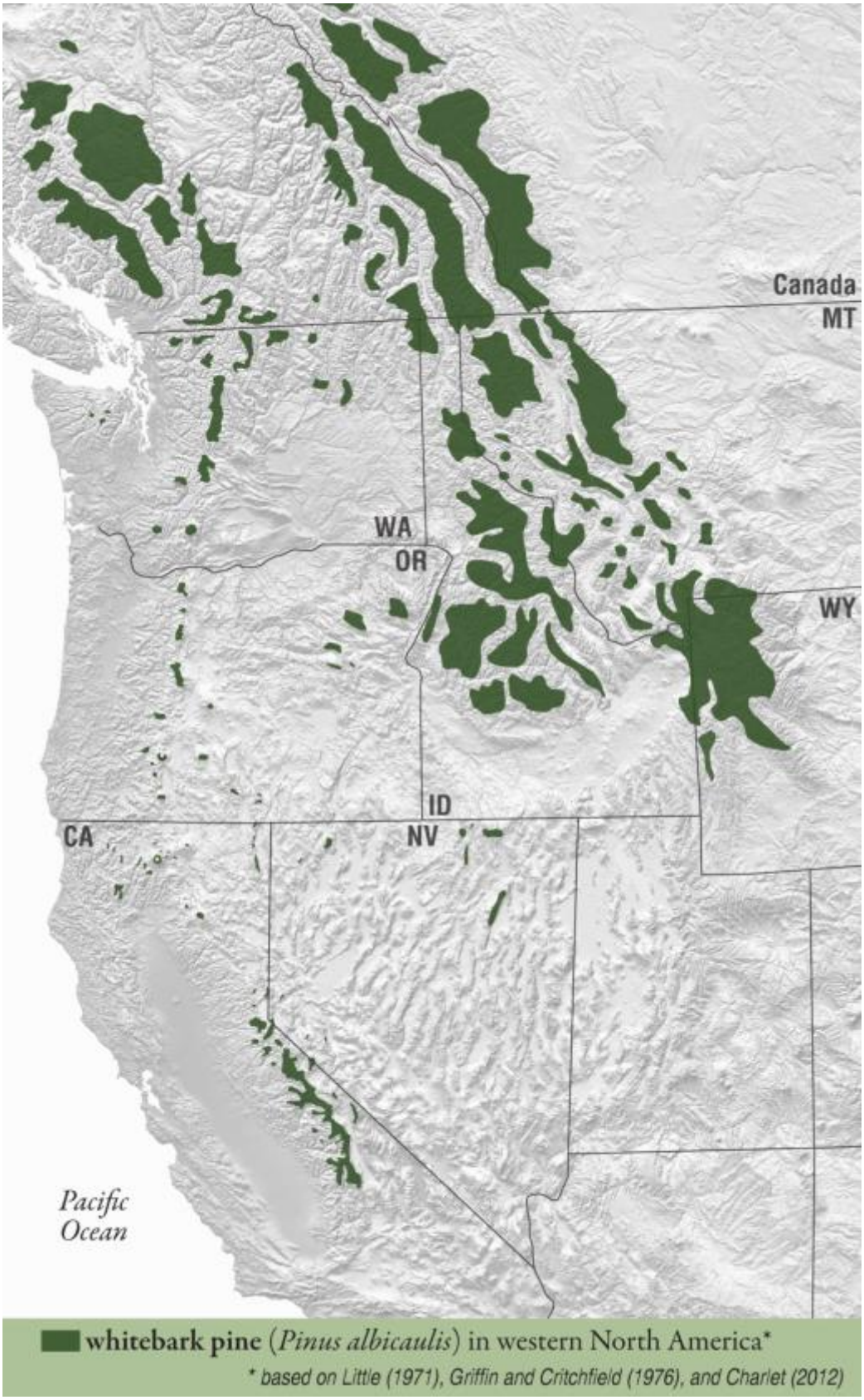

Figure 1. Map created by Michael Kauffmann

its range is attributed to white pine blister rust (WPBR) outbreaks caused by the non-native invasive pathogen (*Cronartium ribicola*) (Tomback and Achuff 2010) and native mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) attacks (Logan and Powell 2001, Logan et al. 2010). Decimation of populations in the northern Rocky Mountains has led Canada to list the species as endangered in 2010 (http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct1/searchdetail_e.cfm). The current and potential loss of this keystone species in the high mountains of California poses serious threats to biodiversity and losses of ecosystem services, since whitebark pine is one of only a few tree species in these settings.

Mountain pine beetles (MPB) are of concern with respect to high elevation conifers and a warming climate. The beetle is a native insect, having co-evolved with western pine forests in fluctuations of periodic disturbance often followed by cleansing fire regime events. More recently, mass beetle infestations have been correlated with increased climatic warming (Mock et al. 2007). Mountain pine beetles require sufficient thermal input to complete the life cycle in one season. Historically, high elevation ecosystems did not meet these conditions. However, due to recent warming trends, there is adequate thermal input at high elevations for the lifecycle such that infestations of whitebark pine are now increasingly common (Logan and Powell 2001). The preponderance of mass infestations at high elevations has been witnessed throughout California—especially in the arid Warner and eastern Sierra Nevada mountains.

In addition to native insects, a non-native fungal pathogen is affecting high elevation forests. In 1910 white pine blister rust (*Cronartium ribicola*) arrived in a British Columbia port and by 1930 had spread to southern Oregon, infecting western white pine (*Pinus monticola*) and sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*) (Murray 2005) along the way. The lifecycle completion requires WPBR to utilize *Ribes* spp. as alternate hosts. In late summer, spores from *Cronartium ribicola* are blown from the *Ribes* host and then enter 5-needle pines through stomata. Upon successful entry, hyphae grow, spread through the phloem, then ultimately swell and kill tissue above the site of infection. Infected trees can survive for over 10 years, but the infection inhibits reproduction (Murray 2005). For species like WBP, which live in fringe habitat and therefore delay reproductive events until conditions are optimal, having an infection that further inhibits cone production is a dangerous proposition. The fungus is found on foxtail and whitebark pines in northwest California (Maloy 2001) where variability in microsite infestation occurs (Ettl 2007). On Mount Ashland in the Siskiyou Mountains, blister rust has infected 4 of the 9 WBP trees in the population (Murray 2005). All five-needle native western pines have shown some heritable resistance in the past 100 years (Schoettle and Sniezko 2007), but enduring an infection works against a long-lived pine's survival strategy. Populations of whitebark pine did not evolve to withstand fungal infections.

Seedling establishment for organisms that are on the ecological edge, like WBP, is also jeopardized because of the effects of climate change. Causes of unsuccessful seedling recruitment are many but at high elevation include the effects of fire suppression over the past 100 years. While fire has never been a common phenomenon in high-elevation forests, a shift in fire regime occurred in WBP populations during the Holocene, around 4500 years ago. Before that time, fire was not a significant factor in WBP ecology but since has become significant (Murray 2005). The introduction of fire regime suppression in the 1930s is another factor in maintaining whitebark populations. The lack of fire, when coupled with effects of climate change, could also lead to population decline. Whitebark pines need open space for seedling establishment and historically some of this open space has been created by fire events. Fire suppression has also led to increased fire severity and intensity which could be compounded by pathogens. If blister rust and mountain pine beetles continue to move into the high elevations of California, they will potentially generate more dead and downed wood. While considering the potential for the risk of stand replacing fire, this would not mimic historical fire regimes—which have been of low intensity and often focused on individual trees by lightning strikes (Murray 2007).

Introduction

Mapping of whitebark pine occurrence and status/threat has been done primarily using aerial imagery in the National Forests of California by the US Forest Service, including the Pacific Southwest Region - Remote Sensing Lab's CALVEG (Classification and Assessment with Landsat of Visible Ecological Groupings) system. The existing USFS vegetation tiles are a result of a 2004-2005 CALVEG map product; source imagery, for each vegetation tile, ranges from 2002-2009 (USFS 2013c). Even though tile data is continually updated, many stands have not been visited in the field to confirm the accuracy of CALVEG vegetation types. Additionally, little field assessment has been done in the state to identify the presence of whitebark pine, its abundance and status.

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS), working in collaboration with the US Forest Service, initiated field surveys in the summer/fall of 2013 to assess the extent and status of whitebark pine in areas lacking ground surveys in California. Three national forests in the Sierra Nevada and four national forests in the Cascades and Klamath Mountains were selected for field surveys in 2013. The goals of the field assessments were to verify distribution and status of whitebark pine, ground-truth polygons designated by CALVEG as Whitebark Pine for the Regional Dominance Type, conduct modified rapid assessments and reconnaissance surveys (recons) on whitebark pine and related stands, and check the USDA Forest Service (USFS)

Health Protection Margins dataset (Bokach 2013) points for changes in mortality of whitebark pine due to mountain pine beetle and white pine blister rust, if time allowed. Locations within national forests were targeted for the assessment based on potential occurrence of healthy stands in high elevations within the western-most range for the species. Post field assessment, photo interpretation and delineation of whitebark pine extent beyond field surveyed areas were also conducted. This information is being used, along with other reputable sources, to develop a range-wide map of whitebark pine in California (see Figure 2). The map is what we have compiled to date and is a work in progress.

Methods and Materials

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) obtained existing GIS data from various sources including the USFS Pacific Southwest Region Remote Sensing Lab's CALVEG maps (USFS 2013c), USFS Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team's National Insect and Disease Risk Model with Host species layers (USFS 2013a), USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Forest Health and Monitoring Aerial Detection Survey Data (USFS 2013b), USFS Forest Health Protection Margins dataset (Bokach 2013), USFS Forest and Inventory Analysis database (USFS 2013d), the Consortium of California Herbaria (UC Berkeley 2013), USFS Central Sierra Province Ecologist-Becky Estes, USFS Southern Sierra Nevada Province Ecologist - Marc Meyer, National Park Service (NPS) Sierra Nevada Network Inventory and Monitoring Program Ecologist - Jonathan Nesmith, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Plant Ecologist - Sylvia Haultain, US Geological Survey (USGS) Western Ecological Research Center Ecologist - Nathan Stephenson, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Wildlife Biologist - Pete Figura and USFS Northern California Shared Service Center Entomologist - Cynthia Snyder and Danny Cluck. In addition, we used older sources of whitebark pine distribution in the state for context (Griffin and Critchfield 1972) and for lone populations or individuals not delineated or attributed by CALVEG (UC Berkeley 2013).

CNPS also reviewed existing protocols for evaluating whitebark pine vegetation and insect/disease impacts. These protocols included the NPS Standard Operation Procedures for monitoring White Pine (USDOI 2012), Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation (Tomback et al. 2005), Whitebark Pine Inventory and Monitoring Plot protocol (USFS 2013e) and several government research and staff reports (i.e., Millar et al. 2012, Simons and Cluck 2010, Figura 1997, McKinney et al. 2011, and Maloney et al. 2012). We also discussed the existing protocols for assessing whitebark pine vegetation with USFS staff, including Marc Meyer and Shana Gross.

Upon evaluating existing datasets and obtaining input from local National Forest staff, we identified areas to further ground-truth to better determine the distribution and health/status of whitebark pine on the National Forest lands. Priorities included sampling within wilderness lands and identifying areas with low-levels of insect/disease impact. See appendix 1 for a list of contacts made overall for this assessment.

Two wilderness areas were selected for sampling in Stanislaus National Forest: Mokelumne and Carson-Iceberg. During the field visits, staff visited areas where CALVEG map polygons were designated as Whitebark Pine for the Regional Dominant Type, when accessible, to determine if whitebark pine was present. Staff also visited other areas that were identified through aerial photo interpretation and through reconnaissance by USFS staff where whitebark pine occurred in the Mokelumne Wilderness.

We selected the CNPS/CDFW Vegetation Rapid Assessment protocol (see Appendix 2) to gather information on occurrence, habitat, and impacts of stands with whitebark pine. We modified this protocol to include signs of Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) and White Pine Blister Rust (WPBR), and overall whitebark pine status/health. The modified rapid assessment aimed to gather as much information on whitebark pine health without spending a significant amount of time establishing plots or collecting data on individual trees. Therefore, the survey technique was stand based to assess the extent of whitebark pine vegetation across broad areas in a short amount of time. Sampling included pure stands, mixed conifer stands, and high elevation krummholz, as long as whitebark pine was deemed a component.

The modification to the rapid assessment included additional information from the Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW) Ecology Program's Whitebark Pine Protocol such as; whitebark pine impacts from MPB and WPBR, MPB level of attack and % of WBP cones (female). Other protocol information added included; # of individual clumps/stems per area, phenology of WBP (% vegetative, % male flowers and % fruiting) and overall site/ occurrence quality/viability (site + population) from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). Since MPB attack and WPBR infestation were the main disturbance of interest to be recorded, USFS Pathologists and Entomologists were contacted for visual aids for accurate whitebark pine health assessment. Subsequently, comprehensive field guides were made for recognizing symptoms and signs of MPB and WPBR attack (Kauffmann 2014).

The reconnaissance (recon) form used for the assessment takes pertinent information from the CNPS/CDFW Vegetation Rapid Assessment protocol to gather simplified, general information about a stand (see Appendix 2). Since the goal of the assessment was to gather information on healthy stands of WBP over a large area, the three purposes of the recon form were to collect

data either on 1) WBP stands that were largely diseased or infested, 2) stands delineated as WBP by CALVEG but were incorrect, or 3) WBP stands that were close to stands sampled by a Rapid Assessment.

Results

During the Stanislaus NF field work in September 2013, CNPS staff along with USFS botany crew members, assessed whitebark pine in two ranger districts (Calaveras and Summit) in the Mokelumne and Carson-Iceberg wilderness areas respectively (see Appendix 3 for overview maps). In the Mokelumne Wilderness, south of Reynolds Peak and into the Toiyabe National Forest, we performed 4 rapid assessments (2 whitebark pine dominant and 2 mixed conifer) and 3 recons (2 whitebark pine dominant and 1 mixed conifer). In this area, pure whitebark pine stands were restricted to the highest elevations at around 2,700 m (8,858 ft) and MPB attacks and stem mortality from infestation was evident in this area.

In the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, we assessed known locations of whitebark pine from USFS botany crew reconnaissance near Hiram Peak. We performed 1 rapid assessment (whitebark pine dominant) and 2 recons (both whitebark pine dominant). One of the recon stands at 2,637 m (8,652 ft) showed the only sign of white pine blister rust (WPBR) found during our surveys. WPBR was growing in its telial horn stage on the underside of several gooseberry currant (*Ribes montigenum*) leaves. This identification was confirmed by Cheryl Blomquist of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Even though WPBR was found in this area, we observed minor whitebark pine mortality or other WPBR signs, and the overall health of the stands assessed was good.

In the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, we assessed whitebark pine along the St. Mary's trail, north of Sonora Pass. We performed 2 rapid assessments (both whitebark pine dominant) and 6 recons (all whitebark pine dominant). Four out of the 6 stands surveyed were south of the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness Area, and the 2 recon surveys that were in wilderness were CALVEG polygons delineated as Whitebark Pine for the Regional Dominant Type. Whitebark pines formed pure, extensive stands along the trail and were accurately attributed and delineated by CALVEG. For most of the area surveyed, they were above 3,050 m (10,000 ft) in elevation and appeared very healthy in this region with little stem mortality.

For more detailed summary information from this field work see Appendix 4. Photographs of field sites are provided in Appendix 5, and detailed maps of the field sites and updated delineations of whitebark pine are in Appendix 6. The updated delineations show stands where whitebark pine is present; including CALVEG map polygons confirmed as whitebark pine and

other stands assessed on the ground during the survey. Additionally, in our geodatabase for the Stanislaus NF we have delineations that include stands photo-interpreted as the *Pinus albicaulis* alliance, by extrapolating the field data and identifying the aerial signature of the pine. The total amount of whitebark pine delineated within the field assessed region, including areas visited by the USFS botany crew, was approximately 336 acres in the southern part of Calaveras Ranger District (Figure 9, Appendix 6), 140 acres in and near the Mokelumne Wilderness (Figure 8), and 128 acres in the St. Mary's Pass area (Figure 10).

Conclusions and Discussion

Field assessment of whitebark pine in Stanislaus National Forest was important in identifying the localized distribution of this vegetation, including significant increases in mapped areas of whitebark pine compared to previous delineations from remote sensing. Outside of the field assessed region, we photo-interpreted approximately 1,146 acres, extrapolating from the field data and reviewing the aerial imagery for the signature of whitebark pine in the vicinity; most of which resides in or just south of the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness near Sonora Pass. In total, we delineated about 1,750 acres of whitebark pine habitat, while the Calveg map shows only 234 acres within Stanislaus. The current delineations include some areas adjacent to the Stanislaus National Forest, i.e., about 20 acres in the Eldorado NF in the Mokelumne Wilderness, and 410 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest.

Using the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) protocol for documenting overall quality and viability of whitebark pine stands observed in the Mokelumne and Carson-Iceberg wilderness areas, we conclude that stands in the Mokelumne ranged from poor/ fair viability (probability of persistence over the next 20 years) in the Reynolds Peak area to excellent near Hiram Peak (note that only one rapid assessment was completed here). More rapid assessments should be done near Hiram Peak to confirm quality and viability of stands since WPBR infection is a threat. Finding white pine blister rust (WPBR) in its telial horn stage indicates that whitebark pine could be infected once the horns mature and release basidiospores. This area may be good for long-term monitoring to see if and when WPBR infects whitebark pine and the physiological symptoms and signs of the infection over time (see suggested protocol in Appendix 7).

Stands in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness had good viability overall. Due to stand size, amount of threat/impacts, purity of upright stands (not all Krummholtz), abiotic and biotic conditions and signs of reproductive health, whitebark pine in this area of the Stanislaus NF are healthy and are also recommended for long-term monitoring in the future.

Data Gaps and Recommendations for Future Work

Areas for priority assessment in the Stanislaus National Forest would be locations where Stanislaus NF botany staff collected whitebark pine presence data. This includes Ebbetts Peak, Arnot Peak and Willow Flat (Marshall Canyon). Other areas of interest for assessment would be CALVEG polygons in the Emigrant Wilderness, east of Emigrant Lake and south of Grizzly Peak. Priority areas for long-term monitoring, also mentioned above, would be Hiram Peak and mapped CALVEG stands in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness.

Areas of priority for future assessment in other National Forests are as follows: 1) northern Sequoia NF in the Monarch and Jennie Lakes Wilderness areas near 3,000 m (10,000 ft) 2) southern Sierra NF in the Monarch Wilderness and CALVEG polygons near Florence and Edison Lakes 3) Lake Tahoe Basin near Relay and Freel Peaks 4) southern Inyo NF CALVEG polygons in the Golden Trout Wilderness 5) northern Inyo NF Research Natural Areas, Sentinel Meadow and Harvey Monroe Hall, based on ecological surveys (Keeler-Wolf 1990) and 6) northern Eldorado NF in the Desolation Wilderness near McConnel Peak and Mount Price and southern Eldorado NF in the Mokelumne Wilderness near Deadwood Peak.

Lastly, this report is not comprehensive; it was based upon the available funding and resources for pilot fieldwork and the USDA Forest Service staff schedules in 2013. The draft map of whitebark pine distribution (see Figure 2) is therefore not complete but provides an updated version of its distribution from field surveys and aerial interpretation with limited modeled data. The modeled data presented from CALVEG in Figure 2 can be used to prioritize additional areas for field assessments, since from our calculation CALVEG is less than 20% accurate for the Whitebark Pine Regional Dominance Type.

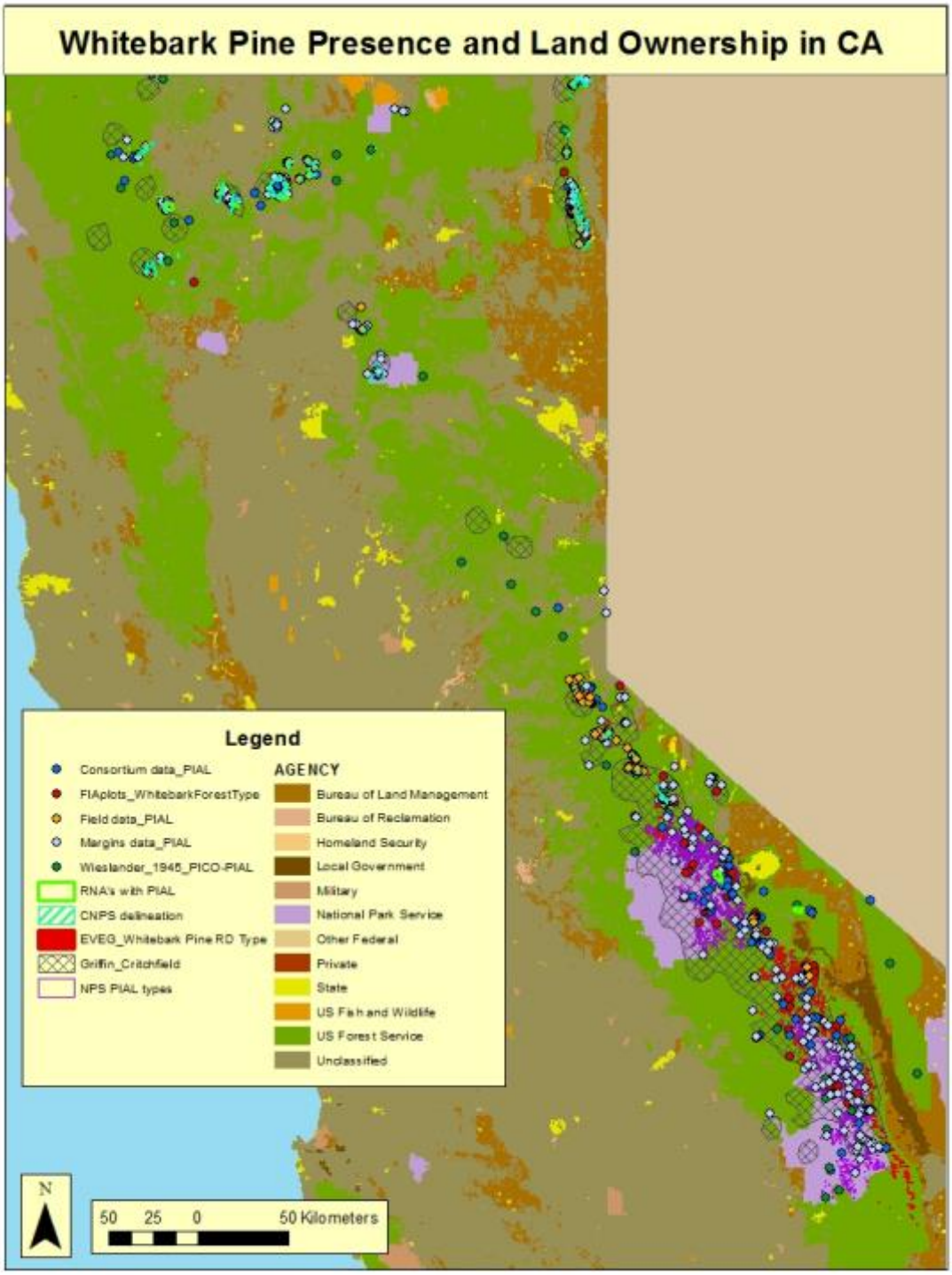

Figure 2. Draft map of whitebark pine presence and land ownership in California. Field data_PIAL includes all PIAL data points collected from CNPS in 2013, USFS botanist survey/research points, academic research points, etc. Land ownership layer is from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM 2014), http://www.blm.gov/ca/gis/. Note: Private property is classified mostly as Unclassified in this map. Figure by Sara Taylor.

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Appendix 1: Key Individuals/Contacts

Cheryl Blomquist	Senior Plant Pathologist, Plant Pest Diagnostics Center, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Beverly Bulaon	Entomologist, Stanislaus National Forest, USFS
Martin MacKenzie	Forest Pathologist, Southern Sierra Shared Service Area, Stanislaus National Forest, USFS
Jessica Self	Botany Crew Leader, Calaveras Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest, USFS
Quinn Young	District Botanist, Calaveras Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest, USFS

Appendix 2: Inventory and Monitoring Protocols / Field Forms from 2013

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY / DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME PROTOCOL
FOR COMBINED VEGETATION RAPID ASSESSMENT
AND RELEVÉ SAMPLING FIELD FORM
(Modified for WBP)
July 8, 2013

Introduction

This protocol describes the methodology for both the relevé and rapid assessment vegetation sampling techniques as recorded in the combined relevé and rapid assessment field survey form dated June 28, 2013. The same environmental data are collected for both techniques. However, the relevé sample is plot-based, with each species in the plot and its cover being recorded. The rapid assessment sample is based not on a plot but on the entire stand, with 12-20 of the dominant or characteristic species and their cover values recorded. For more background on the relevé and rapid assessment sampling methods, see the relevé and rapid assessment protocols at www.cnps.org.

Selecting stands to sample:

To start either the relevé or rapid assessment method, a stand of vegetation needs to be defined.
A stand is the basic physical unit of vegetation in a landscape. It has no set size. Some vegetation stands are very small, such as alpine meadow or tundra types, and some may be several square kilometers in size, such as desert or forest types. A stand is defined by two main unifying characteristics:

1) It has compositional integrity. Throughout the site, the combination of species is similar. The stand is differentiated from adjacent stands by a discernable boundary that may be abrupt or indistinct.
2) It has structural integrity. It has a similar history or environmental setting that affords relatively similar horizontal and vertical spacing of plant species. For example, a hillside forest originally dominated by the same species that burned on the upper part of the slopes, but not the lower, would be divided into two stands. Likewise, sparse woodland occupying a slope with very shallow rocky soils would be considered a different stand from an adjacent slope with deeper, moister soil and a denser woodland or forest of the same species.

The structural and compositional features of a stand are often combined into a term called homogeneity. For an area of vegetated ground to meet the requirements of a stand, it must be homogeneous (uniform in structure and composition throughout).

Stands to be sampled may be selected by evaluation prior to a site visit (*e.g.,* delineated from aerial photos or satellite images), or they may be selected on site during reconnaissance (to determine extent and boundaries, location of other similar stands, etc.).

Depending on the project goals, you may want to select just one or a few representative stands of each homogeneous vegetation type for sampling (*e.g.,* for developing a classification for a vegetation mapping project), or you may want to sample all of them (*e.g.,* to define a rare vegetation type and/or compare site quality between the few remaining stands).

For the rapid assessment method, you will collect data based on the entire stand.

Selecting a plot to sample within in a stand (for relevés only):
Because many stands are large, it may be difficult to summarize the species composition, cover, and structure of an entire stand. We are also usually trying to capture the most information as efficiently as possible. Thus, we are typically forced to select a representative portion to sample.

When sampling a vegetation stand, the main point to remember is to select a sample that, in as many ways possible, is representative of that stand. This means that you are not randomly selecting a plot; on the contrary, you are actively using your own best judgment to find a representative example of the stand.

Selecting a plot requires that you see enough of the stand you are sampling to feel comfortable in choosing a representative plot location. Take a brief walk through the stand and look for variations in species composition and in stand structure. In many cases in hilly or mountainous terrain look for a vantage point from which you can get a representative view of the whole stand. Variations in vegetation that are repeated throughout the stand should be included in your plot. Once you assess the variation within the stand, attempt to find an area that captures the stand's common species composition and structural condition to sample.

Plot Size
All relevés of the same type of vegetation to be analyzed in a study need to be the same size. Plot shape and size are somewhat dependent on the type of vegetation under study. Therefore, general guidelines for plot sizes of tree-, shrub-, and herbaceous communities have been established. Sufficient work has been done in temperate vegetation to be confident the following conventions will capture species richness:

Herbaceous communities: 100 sq. m plot
Special herbaceous communities, such as vernal pools, fens: 10 sq m plot
Shrublands and Riparian forest/woodlands: 400 sq. m plot
Open desert and other shrublands with widely dispersed but regularly occurring woody species: 1000 sq. m plot
Upland Forest and woodland communities: 1000 sq. m plot

Plot Shape
A relevé has no fixed shape, though plot shape should reflect the character of the stand. If the stand is about the same size as a relevé, the plot boundaries may be similar to that of the entire stand. If we are sampling streamside riparian or other linear communities, our plot dimensions should not go beyond the community's natural ecological boundaries. Thus, a relatively long, narrow plot capturing the vegetation within the stand, but not outside it would be appropriate. Species present along the edges of the plot that are clearly part of the adjacent stand should be excluded.

If we are sampling broad homogeneous stands, we would most likely choose a shape such as a circle (which has the advantage of the edges being equidistant to the center point) or a square (which can be quickly laid out using perpendicular tapes).

Definitions of fields in the protocol

Relevé or Rapid Assessment: Circle the method that you are using.

I. LOCATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Polygon/Stand #: Number assigned either in the field or in the office prior to sampling. It is usually denoted with a four-letter abbreviation of the sampling location and then a four-number sequential number of that locale (*e.g.* CARR0001 for Carrizo sample #1). The maximum number of letters/numbers is eight.

Air photo #: The number given to the aerial photo in a vegetation-mapping project, for which photo interpreters have already done photo interpretation and delineations of polygons. If the sample site has not been photo-interpreted, leave blank.

Date: Date of the sampling.

Name(s) of surveyors: The full names of each person assisting should be provided for the first field form for the day. On successive forms, initials of each person assisting can be recorded. Please note: The person recording the data on the form should circle their name/initials.

GPS waypoint #: The waypoint number assigned by a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit when marking and storing a waypoint for the sample location. Stored points should be downloaded in the office to serve as a check on the written points and to enter into a GIS.

For relevé plots, take the waypoint in the southwest corner of the plot or in the center of a circular plot.

GPS name: The name/number assigned to each GPS unit. This can be the serial number if another number is not assigned.

Datum: (NAD 83) The standard GPS datum used is NAD 83. If you are using a different datum, note it here.

Bearing, left axis at SW pt (note in degrees) of Long or Short side: For square or rectangular plots: from the SW corner (= the GPS point location), looking towards the plot, record the bearing of the axis to your left. If the plot is a rectangle, indicate whether the left side of the plot is the long or short side of the rectangle by circling "long" or "short" side (no need to circle anything for circular or square plots). If there are no stand constraints, you would choose a circular or square plot and straight-sided plots should be set up with boundaries running in the cardinal directions. If you choose a rectangular plot that is not constrained by the stand dimensions, the short side should run from east to west, while the long side should run from north to south.

UTM coordinates: Easting (UTME) and northing (UTMN) location coordinates using the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid. Record in writing the information from a GPS unit or a USGS topographic map.

UTM zone: Universal Transverse Mercator zone. Zone 10 is for California west of the 120th longitude, zone 11 is for California east of 120th longitude, which is the same as the straight portion of California's eastern boundary.

Error: ± The accuracy of the GPS location, when taking the UTM field reading. Please record the error units by circling feet (ft), meters (m), or positional dilution of precision (pdop). If your GPS does not determine error, insert N/A in this field.

Is GPS within stand? Yes / No Circle"Yes" to denote that the GPS waypoint was taken directly within or at the edge of the stand being assessed for a rapid assessment, or circle "No" if the waypoint was taken at a distance from the stand (such as with a binocular view of the stand).

If No, cite from waypoint to stand, distance (note in meters) & bearing (note in degrees): An estimate of the number of meters and the compass bearing from the GPS waypoint to the stand.

Elevation: Recorded from the GPS unit or USGS topographic map. Please circle feet (ft) or meters (m).

Photograph #s: Write the name or initials of the camera owner, JPG/frame number, and direction of photos (note the roll number if using film). *Take four photos in the main cardinal directions (N, E, S, W) clockwise from the north, from the GPS location.* If additional photos are taken in other directions, please note this information on the form. Also include overview photos of Whitebark pine.

Stand Size: Estimate the size of the entire stand in which the sample is taken. As a measure, one acre is about 4000 square meters (approximately 64 x 64 m), or 208 feet by 208 feet. One acre is similar in size to a football field.

Plot Size: If this is a relevé, circle the size of the plot.

Plot Shape: Record the length and width of the plot and circle measurement units (i.e., ft or m). If it is a circular plot, enter radius (or just put a check mark in the space).

Exposure: (Enter actual º and circle general category): With your back to the general uphill direction of the slope (i.e., by facing downhill of the slope), read degrees of the compass for the aspect or the direction you are standing, using degrees from north, adjusted for declination. Average the reading over the entire stand, even if you are sampling a relevé plot, since your plot is representative of the stand. If estimating the exposure, write "N/A" for the actual degrees, and circle the general category chosen. "Variable" may be selected if the same, homogenous stand of vegetation occurs across a varied range of slope exposures. Select "all" if stand is on top of a knoll that slopes in all directions or if the same, homogenous stand of vegetation occurs across all ranges of slope.

Steepness: (Enter actual º and circle general category): Read degree slope from a compass or clinometer. If estimating, write "N/A" for the actual degrees, and circle the general category chosen.. Make sure to average the reading across the entire stand even if you are sampling in a relevé plot.

Topography: First assess the broad (**Macro**) topographic feature or general position of the stand in the surrounding watershed, that is, the stand is at the top, upper (1/3 of slope), middle (1/3 of slope), lower (1/3 of slope), or bottom. **Circle *all* of the positions that apply for macrotopography.**

Then assess the local (**Micro**) topographic features or the lay of the area (*e.g.,* surface is flat or concave). **Circle only *one* of the microtopographic descriptors**.

Geology: Geological parent material of site. If exact type is unknown, use a more general category (*e.g.,* igneous, metamorphic, sedimentary). *See code list for types.*

Soil Texture: Record soil texture that is characteristic of the site (*e.g.,* coarse loamy sand, sandy clay loam). *See soil texture key and code list for types.*

Upland or Wetland/Riparian (circle one): Indicate if the stand is in an upland or a wetland. There are only two options. Wetland and riparian are one category. Note that a site need not be officially delineated as a wetland to qualify as such in this context (*e.g.,* seasonally wet meadow).

% Surface cover (abiotic substrates). It is helpful to imagine "mowing off" all of the live vegetation at the base of the plants and removing it – you will be estimating what is left covering the surface. **The total should sum to 100%.** Note that non-vascular cover (lichens, mosses, cryptobiotic crusts) is not estimated in this section.

% Water: Estimate the percent surface cover of running or standing water, ignoring the substrate below the water.

% BA Stems: Percent surface cover of the plant basal area, *i.e.*, the basal area of stems at the ground surface. Note that for most vegetation types BA is 1-3% cover. Estimate for a set area (e.g., 400 m2) of BA to help calibrate on this % (on average % is between 1.5-4.5% for conifers)

% Litter: Percent surface cover of litter, duff, or wood on the ground.

% Bedrock: Percent surface cover of bedrock.

% Boulders: Percent surface cover of rocks > 60 cm in diameter.

% Stone: Percent surface cover of rocks 25-60 cm in diameter.

% Cobble: Percent surface cover of rocks 7.5 to 25 cm in diameter.

% Gravel: Percent surface cover of rocks 2 mm to 7.5 cm in diameter.

% Fines: Percent surface cover of bare ground and fine sediment (e.g. dirt) < 2 mm in diameter.

% Current year bioturbation: Estimate the percent of the sample or stand exhibiting soil disturbance by fossorial organisms (any organism that lives underground). Do not include disturbance by ungulates. Note that this is a separate estimation from surface cover.

Past bioturbation present? Circle Yes if there is evidence of bioturbation from previous years.

% Hoof punch: Note the percent of the sample or stand surface that has been punched down by hooves (cattle or native grazers) in wet soil.

Fire Evidence: Circle Yes if there is visible evidence of fire, and note the type of evidence in the "Site history, stand age and comments section," for example, "charred dead stems of *Quercus berberidifolia* extending 2 feet above resprouting shrubs." If you are certain of the year of the fire, put this in the Site history section.

Site history, stand age, and comments: Briefly describe the stand age/seral stage, disturbance history, nature and extent of land use, and other site environmental and vegetation factors. Examples of disturbance history: fire, landslides, avalanching, drought, flood, animal

burrowing, or pest outbreak. Also, try to estimate year or frequency of disturbance. Examples of land use: grazing, timber harvest, or mining. Examples of other site factors: exposed rocks, soil with fine-textured sediments, high litter/duff build-up, multi-storied vegetation structure, or other stand dynamics.

Disturbance code / Intensity (L,M,H): List codes for potential or existing impacts on the stability of the plant community. Characterize each impact each as **L** (=Light), **M** (=Moderate), or **H** (=Heavy). For invasive exotics, divide the total exotic cover (e.g. 25% Bromus diandrus + 8% Bromus madritensis + 5% Centaurea melitensis = 38% total exotics) by the total % cover of all the layers when added up (e.g. 15% tree + 5% low tree + 25% shrub + 40% herbs = 85% total) and multiply by 100 to get the % relative cover of exotics (e.g. 38% total exotics/85% total cover = 45% relative exotic cover). L = 0-33% *relative* cover of exotics; M =34-66% relative cover, and H = > 66% relative cover. *See code list for impacts.*

List percent of WBP impacted by Mountain Pine Beetle (39-MPB/L/approx. % impacted) and White Pine Blister Rust (40-WPBR/H/approx. % impacted) within the stand. For Mountain Pine Beetle, search the bole for entry holes (reddish colored pitch) or frass. For WPBR, search for 'signs' of an active canker (i.e., a canker with visible aecia, or fruiting bodies containing spores), or 'symptoms' of any of the following five indicators: rodent chewing, flagging, swelling, roughened bark, and oozing sap. Explain signs and symptoms in the notes and take photos when necessary.

II. HABITAT AND VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

California Wildlife-Habitat Relationships (CWHR)

For CWHR, identify the size/height class of the stand using the following tree, shrub, and/or herbaceous categories. These categories are based on functional life forms.

Tree DBH: Circle one of the tree size classes provided when the tree canopy closure exceeds 10 percent of the total cover, or if young tree density indicates imminent tree dominance. Size class is based on the average diameter at breast height (dbh) of each trunk (standard breast height is 4.5ft or 137cm). When marking the main size class, make sure to estimate the mean diameter of all trees over the entire stand, and weight the mean if there are some larger tree dbh's. The "**T6 multi-layered**" dbh size class contains a multi-layered tree canopy (with a size class T3 and/or T4 layer growing under a T5 layer and a distinct height separation between the classes) exceeding 60% total cover. Stands in the T6 class need also to contain at least 10% cover of size class 5 (>24" dbh) trees growing over a distinct layer with at least 10% combined cover of trees in size classes 3 or 4 (>11-24" dbh). This is weighted: In your representative area add number of trees for each category and record above (T1,T2,T3, etc). Can square root later to get the weighted average for this category (if there are many sizes).

Shrub: Circle one of the shrub size classes provided when shrub canopy closure exceeds 10 percent (except in desert types) by recording which class is predominant in the survey. Shrub size class is based on the average amount of crown decadence (dead standing vegetation on live shrubs when looking across the crowns of the shrubs).

Herb: Circle one of the herb height classes when herbaceous cover exceeds 2 percent by recording the predominant class in the survey. Note: *This height class is based on the average plant height at maturity, not necessarily at the time of observation.*

Desert Palm/Joshua Tree: Circle one of the palm or Joshua tree size classes by averaging all the stem-base diameters (*i.e.* mean diameter of all stem-base sizes). Diameter is measured at the plant's base above the bulge near the ground.

Desert Riparian Tree/Shrub: Circle one of the size classes by measuring mean stem height (whether tree and/or shrub stand).

Overall Cover of Vegetation

Provide an estimate of cover for the following categories below (based on functional life forms). Record a specific number for the total aerial cover or "bird's-eye view" looking from above for each category, estimating cover for the living plants only. Litter/duff should not be included in these estimates. The porosity of the vegetation should be taken into consideration when estimating percent cover (how much of the sky can you see when you are standing under the canopy of a tree, or how much light passes through the canopy of the shrub layer?).

To come up with a specific number estimate for percent cover, first use generalized cover classes as reference aids such as the CWHR cover classes (<2%, 2-9%, 10-24%, 25-39%, 40-59%, 60-100%) or the modified Braun-Blanquet cover-abundance scale (<1%, 1-5%, >5-15%, >15-25%, >25-50%, >50-75%, >75%). While keeping these intervals in mind, you can then refine your estimate to a specific percentage for each category below.

% Total NonVasc cover: The total cover of all lichens, bryophytes (mosses, liverworts, hornworts), and cryptogrammic crust on substrate surfaces including downed logs, rocks and soil, but not on standing or inclined trees or vertical rock surfaces.

% Total Vasc Veg cover: The total cover of all vascular vegetation taking into consideration the porosity, or the holes, in the vegetation. This is an estimate of the absolute vegetation cover, disregarding overlap of the various tree, shrub, and/or herbaceous layers and species. Could use densitometer to calibrate, but sometimes this provides an over-estimate.

% Cover by Layer

% Conifer Tree /Hardwood Tree: The total foliar cover (considering porosity) of all live tree species, disregarding overlap of individual trees. Estimate conifer and hardwood covers separately.
Please note: These cover values should not include the coverage of regenerating tree species (i.e., tree seedlings and saplings).

% Regenerating Tree: The total foliar cover of seedlings and saplings, disregarding overlap of individual recruits. See seedling and sapling definitions below.

%Shrub: The total foliar cover (considering porosity) of all live shrub species disregarding overlap of individual shrubs.

%Herbaceous: The total cover (considering porosity) of all herbaceous species, disregarding overlap of individual herbs.

Height Class by Layer

Modal height for conifer tree /hardwood tree, shrub, and herbaceous categories: Provide an estimate of height for each category listed. Record an average height value per each category by estimating the mean height for each group. Please use the following height intervals to record a height class: 01 =< 1/2m, 02=1/2-1m, 03 = 1-2 m, 04 = 2-5 m, 05 = 5-10 m, 06 = 10-15 m, 07 = 15-20 m, 08 = 20-35 m, 09 = 35-50 m, 10 => 50m.

Species List and Coverage

- If mistletoe present add in what species it is living on
- Record absolute percent cover of dead tree species (can include saplings and seedlings)

For rapid assessments, list the 10-20 species that are dominant or that are characteristically consistent throughout the stand. These species may or may not be abundant, but they should be constant representatives in the survey. When different layers of vegetation occur in the stand, make sure to list species from each stratum. As a general guide, make sure to list at least 1-2 of the most abundant species per stratum.

For relevés, list all species present in the plot, using the second species list page if necessary.

For both sample types, provide the stratum:
T = Tree. A woody perennial plant that has a single trunk.
S = Shrub. A perennial, woody plant, that is multi-branched and doesn't die back to the ground every year.
H = Herb. An annual or perennial that dies down to ground level every year.
E = SEedling. A tree species clearly of a very young age that is < 1" dbh.
A = SApling. 1" - <6" dbh and young in age, OR small trees that are < 1"diameter at breast height, are clearly of appreciable age, and kept short by repeated browsing, burning, or other disturbance.
N = Non-vascular. Includes moss, lichen, liverworts, hornworts, cryptogammic crust, and algae.

Be consistent and don't break up a single species into two separate strata. The only time it would be appropriate to do so is when one or more tree species are regenerating, in which case the Seedling and/or Sapling strata should be recorded for that species. These may be noted on the same line, e.g.:

Strata	**Species**	**%Cover**	C
T/E/A	Quercus douglasii	40/<1/<1	

If a species collection is made, it should be indicated in the collection column with a "C" (for collected). If the species is later keyed out, cross out the species name or description and write the keyed species name in pen on the data sheet. Do not erase what was written in the field, because this information can be used if specimens get mixed up later. If the specimen is then thrown out, the "C" in the collection column should crossed out. If the specimen is kept but is still not confidently identified, add a "U" to the "C" in the collection column (CU = collected and unconfirmed). In this case the unconfirmed species epithet should be put in parentheses [e.g

Hordeum (murinum)]. If the specimen is kept and is confidently identified, add a "C" to the existing "C" in the collection column (CC = Collected and confirmed).

Use Jepson Manual nomenclature. Write out the genus and species of the plant. Do not abbreviate. When uncertain of an identification (which you intend to confirm later) use parentheses to indicate what part of the determination needs to be confirmed. For example, you could write out *Brassica* (*nigra*) if you are sure it is a *Brassica* but you need further clarification on the specific epithet.

Provide the % absolute aerial cover for each species listed. When estimating, it is often helpful to think of coverage in terms of the following cover intervals at first:

<1%, 1-5%, >5-15%, >15-25%, >25-50%, >50-75%, >75%.

Keeping these classes in mind, then refine your estimate to a specific percentage. All species percent covers may total over 100% because of overlap.

Include the percent cover of snags (standing dead) of trees and shrubs. Note their species, if known, in the "Stand history, stand age and comments" section.

For rapid assessments, make sure that the major non-native species occurring in the stand also are listed in the space provided in the species list with their strata and % cover. For relevés, all non-native species should be included in the species list.

Also for relevés, you can record the <1% cover in two categories: r = trace (i.e., rare in plot, or solitary individuals) and + = <1% (few individuals at < 1% cover, but common in the plot).

Unusual species: List species that are locally or regionally rare, endangered, or atypical (*e.g.,* range extension or range limit) within the stand. This field will be useful to the Program for obtaining data on regionally or locally significant populations of plants.

INTERPRETATION OF STAND

Field-assessed vegetation alliance name: Name of alliance or habitat following the most recent CNPS classification system or the Manual of California Vegetation (Sawyer J.O., Keeler-Wolf T., and Evens, J. 2009). Please use scientific nomenclature, *e.g., Quercus agrifolia* forest. An alliance is based on the dominant or diagnostic species of the stand, and is usually of the uppermost and/or dominant height stratum. A dominant species covers the greatest area. A diagnostic species is consistently found in some vegetation types but not others.

Please note: The field-assessed alliance name may not exist in the present classification, in which case you can provide a new alliance name in this field. If this is the case, also make sure to state that it is not in the MCV under the explanation for "Confidence in alliance identification."

Field-assessed association name (optional): Name of the species in the alliance and additional dominant/diagnostic species from any strata, as according to CNPS classification. In following naming conventions, species in differing strata are separated with a slash, and species in the uppermost stratum are listed first (*e.g., Quercus douglasii/Toxicodendron diversilobum*). Species in the same stratum are separated with a dash (*e.g., Quercus lobata-Quercus douglasii)*.

Please note: The field-assessed association name may not exist in the present classification, in which you can provide a new association name in this field.

Adjacent Alliances/direction: Identify other vegetation types that are directly adjacent to the stand being assessed by noting the dominant species (or known type). Also note the distance away in meters from the GPS waypoint and the direction in degrees aspect that the adjacent alliance is found
(e.g., *Amsinckia tessellata* / 50m, 360° N *Eriogonum fasciculatum* /100m, 110°).

Confidence in Identification: (L, M, H) With respect to the "field-assessed alliance name", note whether you have L (=Low), M (=Moderate), or H (=High) confidence in the interpretation of this alliance name.

Explain: Please elaborate if your "Confidence in Identification" is low or moderate. Low confidence can occur from such things as a poor view of the stand, an unusual mix of species that does not meet the criteria of any described alliance, or a low confidence in your ability to identify species that are significant members of the stand.

Phenology: Indicate early (E), peak (P) or late (L) phenology for each of the strata.

Other identification problems or mapping issues: Discuss any further problems with the identification of the assessment or issues that may be of interest to mappers. Note if this sample represents a type that is likely too small to map. If it does, how much of the likely mapping unit would be comprised of this type. For example: "this sample represents the top of kangaroo rat precincts in this general area, which are surrounded by vegetation represented by CARR000x; this type makes up 10% of the mapping unit." Depending on who mapped polygon (Calveg, etc); we should denote that information here.

Is polygon >1 type: Yes / No (circle one): In areas that have been delineated as polygons on aerial photographs/imagery for a vegetation-mapping project, assess if the polygon is mapped as a single stand. "Yes" is noted when the polygon delineated contains the field-assessed alliance and other vegetation type(s), as based on species composition and structure. "No" is noted when the polygon is primarily representative of the field-assessed alliance.

If yes, explain: If "Yes" above, explain the other vegetation alliances that are included within the polygon, and explain the amount and location that they cover in the polygon.

Other CNDDB/Whitebark Pine (WBP) monitoring Data:
Trees/stems are assessed within a representative portion of the stand (using a specific radius or area for averaging).

Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) Level: Should equal 100%.

Note the level of mountain pine beetle attack using the following:

0 = No evidence of attack or beetle pitch tubes or unknown
1 = less than 5 observable beetle pitch tubes ('hits')

2 = less than 50% of the bole is attacked; sporadic pitch tubes spread on most parts of the bole or several localized areas with a high density (>10) pitch tubes
3 = greater than 50% of the bole is attacked; numerous pitch tubes spread on many parts of the bole

% of WBP Cones (female only): Should equal 100%.

Record the number of cones in the tree/stem using the following numeric system:

0 = no cones
1 = 1 to 10 cones
2 = 11 to 100 cones
3 = greater than 100 cones

Total # WBP individuals or clumps and size (CNDDB):

The number of individuals observed/detected during assessment. This should be recorded as clumps (or # of stems within # of clumps) per defined area (square meters, hectares, acres, etc.).

Phenology of WBP (CNDDB): Should equal 100%.
The average percent of WBP that is vegetative, flowering (nascent female cones) and/or fruiting (mature female cones).

% WBP mortality:
These percentages are for mortality of trees/stems from mountain pine beetle (MPB) or white pine blister rust (WPBR); 'Other' can be % mortality from both MPB and WPBR; including WPBR mortality on other species E.g. WPBR-PIMO/PIBA 5% (white pine blister rust on Pinus monticola or Pinus balfouriana at 5% cover) or unknown causes.

Overall site/occurrence quality/viability (site + population) (CNDDB):
Is the likely persistence of the occurrence into the future Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor? This is an assessment of the overall viability of this occurrence. Both the quality & condition of the site and of the occurrence must be considered when scoring. Take into account population size, demography, viability over time, site condition, and any disturbances. And also see additional characteristics at: http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/eorankguide.htm

Determination of WBP: Please indicate how the species identification was determined.

CNPS and CDFG Combined Vegetation Rapid Assessment and Relevé Field Form (modified for WBP project)

Relevé or Rapid Assessment (circle one) (Revised June 28, 2013)

For Office Use:	**Final database #:**	**Final vegetation type name:**	**Alliance_____ Association**

I. LOCATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Polygon/Stand #:	**Air photo:**	**Date:**	**Name(s) of surveyors (circle recorder):**

GPS wypt #: _____ GPS name: _____ Datum: _____ or NAD83. Bearing, left axis at SW pt_____ (degrees) of Long / Short side

UTME ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ **UTMN** ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ **Zone: 10 / 11** (circle one) **Error: ±_____ ft / m / pdop**

GPS within stand? Yes / No If No, cite from waypoint to stand, distance _____(meters) & bearing _____(degrees)

Elevation: **ft / m Camera Name/Photograph #'s**:

Stand Size (ac/ha): <1, 1-5, >5 ac| _____ ha Plot Size (m^2): 10 / 100 / 400 | Plot Shape ___ x___ m or Circle Radius____ m

Exposure, Actual °: _____ NE NW SE SW Flat Variable All | Steepness, Actual °: _____ 0^o $1\text{-}5^o$ $5\text{-}25^o$ > 25

Topography: Macro: top upper mid lower bottom | Micro: convex flat concave undulating

Geology code: _____ Soil Texture code: _____ | Upland *or* **Wetland/Riparian** (circle one)

% Surface cover: (Incl. outcrops) (>60cm diam) (25-60cm) (7.5-25cm) (2mm-7.5cm) (Incl sand, mud)

H20:____ BA Stems:____ Litter: ____ Bedrock:____ Boulder:____ Stone:____ Cobble:____ Gravel:____ Fines:____ =100%

% Current year bioturbation _____ Past bioturbation present? Yes / No | Fire evidence: Yes / No (if yes, explain below)

Habitat description, surrounding land use, comments (CNDDB):

Disturbance / Intensity (L,M,H) ____/____ ____/____ ____/____ ____/____ WBP Impact__39__/___/____ __40__/___/____

II. HABITAT AND VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Tree DBH : T1 (<1" dbh), **T2** (1-6" dbh), **T3** (6-11" dbh), **T4** (11-24" dbh), **T5** (>24" dbh), **T6** multi-layered (T3 or T4 layer under T5, >60% cover)

Shrub: S1 seedling (<3 yr. old), **S2** young (<1% dead), **S3** mature (1-25% dead), **S4** decadent (>25% dead)

Herbaceous: H1 (<12" plant ht.), **H2** (>12" ht.) **% NonVasc cover:____ % Vasc Veg cover:_____**

% Cover - Conifer tree / Hardwood tree: _____/_____ Regenerating Tree: _____ Shrub: _____ Herbaceous: _____

Height Class - Conifer tree / Hardwood tree: _____/_____ Regenerating Tree: _____ Shrub: _____ Herbaceous: _____

Height classes: 01=<1/2m 02=1/2-1m 03=1-2m 04=2-5m 05=5-10m 06=10-15m 07=15-20m 08=20-35m 09=35-50m 10=>50m

Species, Stratum, and % cover. Stratum categories: T=Tree, S = Shrub, H= Herb, E = SEedling, A = SApling, N= Non-vascular.
% cover intervals for reference: <1%, 1-5%, >5-15%, >15-25%, >25-50%, >50-75%, 75%.

Strata	Species	% dead	% cover	C	Strata	Species	% dead	% cover	C

Other rare taxa in stand (CNDDB)_____

III. INTERPRETATION OF STAND

Field-assessed vegetation alliance name: _____

Field-assessed association name (optional): _____

Adjacent alliances/direction: _____/_____, _____/_____

Confidence in alliance identification: L M H Explain: _____

Other identification or mapping information:	**Phenology (E,P,L): Herb___ Shrub___ Tree___**
Is poly >1 type: Yes / No If yes, explain:	

CNPS and CDFG Combined Vegetation Rapid Assessment and Relevé Field Form (modified for WBP project)
Other CNDDB/Whitebark Pine Monitoring Data:

Polygon/Stand #:
MBP Level: 0=no attack_____% 1=>5 hits _____% 2=<50% of bole attacked_____% 3=>50% of bole attacked_____%
Avg % of WBP Cones: No cones_____% 1-10 cones_____% 11-100_____% >100 _____%
Total # individuals or clumps (WBP) and size (CNDDB)_____ # per _____ hectares
Phenology of WBP (CNDDB): Vegetative_____% Flowering (cones)_____% Fruiting (cones)_____%
%WBP mortality: MPB_____% WPBR_____% Other:_____ _____% _____ _____%
Overall site/occurrence quality/viability (site + population) (CNDDB): ☐Excellent ☐Good ☐Fair ☐Poor
Determination of WBP: Keyed ____ By another person (name) ____ Compared with photo/drawing ____ Other ____

□

Field Reconnaissance Form

Surveyors: ____ **Date:** ___________

Polygon #: _______ **GPS waypoint #:** _______ **GPS in stand?** _Y / N_ **If No, distance/bearing:** _____/_____

Correct _Y / N_ **UTME** __ __ __ __ __ __ **UTMN** __ __ __ __ __ __ __ **Error:** +/-_____ **GPS name:**_______

Aspect: _____ **Elevation**: ________ **ft/m** **Size of stand:** ____ **acre** **Photograph #'s**: ______________________________

Field alliance name: ____ **Site Impacts:**____________________________

Comments: ____

____

Tree cover/ht /dbh: _____/_____/____ **Shrub cover/ht:** ____/____ **Herbaceous cover/ht:** _____/_____ **% Density**______

Strata	Species	% cover		Strata	Species	% cover		Strata	Species	% cover

Polygon #: _______ **GPS waypoint #:** _______ **GPS in stand?** _Y / N_ **If No, distance/bearing:** _____/_____

Correct _Y / N_ **UTME** __ __ __ __ __ __ **UTMN** __ __ __ __ __ __ __ **Error:** +/-_____ **GPS name:**_______

Aspect: _____ **Elevation**: ________ **ft/m** **Size of stand:** ____ **acre** **Photograph #'s**: ______________________________

Field alliance name: ____ **Site Impacts:**____________________________

Comments: ____

____

Tree cover/ht /dbh: _____/_____/____ **Shrub cover/ht:** ____/____ **Herbaceous cover/ht:** _____/_____ **% Density**______

Strata	Species	% cover		Strata	Species	% cover		Strata	Species	% cover

Polygon #: _______ **GPS waypoint #:** _______ **GPS in stand?** _Y / N_ **If No, distance/bearing:** _____/_____

Correct _Y / N_ **UTME** __ __ __ __ __ __ **UTMN** __ __ __ __ __ __ __ **Error:** +/-_____ **GPS name:**_______

Aspect: _____ **Elevation**: ________ **ft/m** **Size of stand:** ____ **acre** **Photograph #'s**: ______________________________

Field alliance name: ____ **Site Impacts:**____________________________

Comments: ____

____

Tree cover/ht /dbh: _____/_____/____ **Shrub cover/ht:** ____/____ **Herbaceous cover/ht:** _____/_____ **% Density**______

Strata	Species	% cover		Strata	Species	% cover		Strata	Species	% cover

Smt 10/18/2013

CNPS and ~~CDFG~~ Combined Vegetation Rapid Assessment and Relevé Field Form (modified for WBP project)

Relevé or (Rapid Assessment) (circle one) (Revised June 28, 2013)

For Office Use:	Final database #:	Final vegetation type name:	Alliance / Association

I. LOCATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Polygon/Stand #:	Air photo:	Date:	Name(s) of surveyors (circle recorder):
MBP09121128	—	9/12/2013	(Smt), patrick mcnelson

GPS wypt #: — GPS name: SA2 Datum: ____ or (NAD83) Bearing, left axis at SW pt ____ (degrees) of Long / Short side

UTME 263692 UTMN 4247457 Zone: 10 / 11 (circle one) Error: ± 2.2 ft / m / (pdop)

GPS within stand? (Yes) / No If No, cite from waypoint to stand, distance — (meters) & bearing ____ (degrees)

Elevation: 2990 ft / (m) Camera Name/Photograph #'s: CAM5 (N) 34-37

Stand Size (ac/ha): <1, (1-5) >5 ac| ______ ha Plot Size (m2): ~~10 / 100 / 400 | Plot Shape ___ x ___ m or~~ Circle Radius 26 m

Exposure, Actual °: 196 NE NW SE (SW) Flat Variable All | Steepness, Actual °: 11 0° 1-5° (5-25°) > 25

Topography: Macro: top upper (mid) lower bottom | Micro: convex flat concave (undulating)

Geology code: Granite Soil Texture code: — | (Upland) or Wetland/Riparian ~~(circle one)~~

% Surface cover: (Incl. outcrops) (>60cm diam) (25-60cm) (7.5-25cm) (2mm-7.5cm) (Incl sand, mud)

H20: Ø BA Stems: 1 Litter: 20 Bedrock: Ø Boulder: + Stone: + Cobble: 15 Gravel: 25 Fines: 39 =100%

% Current year bioturbation 7 Past bioturbation present? (Yes) / No | Fire evidence: Yes / (No) (if yes, explain below)

Habitat description, surrounding land use, comments (CNDDB): P. albicaulis stand mixed w/ P. contorta. Some regeneration of P. albicaulis & P. contorta throughout stand; mostly P. alb regen. Rocky undulating slope w/ lots of bioturbation. Some flagging & mortality of P. albicaulis branches but overall stand looks healthy. Campfire ring in stand, possible disturbance? (Rocky cover)

Disturbance / Intensity (L,M,H) 3 / L / / / WBP Impact WBP 1 / L / 15 WBBR 1 L / symptoms - peeling sap, flagging

II. HABITAT AND VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Tree DBH : T1 (<1" dbh), T2 (1-6" dbh), T3 (6-11" dbh), (T4) (11-24" dbh), T5 (>24" dbh), T6 multi-layered (T3 or T4 layer under T5, >60% cover)

Shrub: S1 seedling (<3 yr. old), S2 young (<1% dead), (S3) mature (1-25% dead), S4 decadent (>25% dead)

Herbaceous: (H1) (<12" plant ht.), H2 (>12" ht.) % Non Vasc cover: Ø % Vasc Veg cover: 30

% Cover - Conifer tree / Hardwood tree: 17 / Ø Regenerating Tree: 1 Shrub: 8 Herbaceous: 6

Height Class - Conifer tree / Hardwood tree: 05 / Ø Regenerating Tree: 04 Shrub: 02 Herbaceous: 01

Height classes: 01=<1/2m 02=1/2-1m 03=1-2m 04=2-5m 05=5-10m 06=10-15m 07=15-20m 08=20-35m 09=35-50m 10=>50m

Species, Stratum, and % cover. Stratum categories: T=Tree, S = Shrub, H= Herb, E = SEedling, A = SApling, N= Non-vascular.

% cover intervals for reference: <1%, 1-5%, >5-15%, >15-25%, >25-50%, >50-75%, 75%.

Strata	Species	% dead	% cover	C	Strata	Species	% dead	% cover	C
T/A/E	Pinus albicaulis	+/Ø/Ø	12/+/+						
T/A	Pinus contorta	/Ø	5/+						
S	Artemesia tridentata		7						
H	Monerdella odoratissima		3						
S	Ribes Sp. (same)		+						
H	Poaceae sp.		1						
H	Castilleja applegatei		+						

Other rare taxa in stand (CNDDB) —

III. INTERPRETATION OF STAND

Field-assessed vegetation alliance name: Pinus albicaulis

Field-assessed association name (optional): —

Adjacent alliances/direction: Pinus albicaulis, S Artemesia tridentata, E

Confidence in alliance identification: L M (H) Explain:

Other identification or mapping information: Phenology (E,P,L): Herb L Shrub L Tree P

Is poly >1 type: Yes / No If yes, explain:

CNPS and CDFG Combined Vegetation Rapid Assessment and Relevé Field Form (modified for WBP project)
Other CNDDB/Whitebark Pine Monitoring Data:

Polygon/Stand #: WBP 091211 23	
MBP Level: 0=no attack 85 % 1=>5 hits 13 % 2=<50% of bole attacked 2 % 3=>50% of bole attacked Ø %	
Avg % of WBP Cones: No cones 88 % 1-10 cones 12 % 11-100 Ø % >100 Ø %	
Total # individual clumps (WBP) and size (CNDDB) 55 # per 2,125 ~~hectares~~ m^2 26 m radius 8+ clumps	
Phenology of WBP (CNDDB): vegetative 88 % flowering (cones) + % fruiting (cones) 12 %	
%WBP mortality: MPB Ø % WPB Ø % Other: unk, 3 % - bark gone completely; no other evidence	
Overall site/occurrence quality/viability (site + population) (CNDDB): ☒Excellent ☐Good ☐Fair ☐Poor	
Determination of WBP: Keyed SMT By another person (name) ___ Compared with photo/drawing ___ Other ___	

✓

★ notes – some basal regen/sprouts on P. albicaulis but not as much as N. Stanislaus NF (Reynolds Pk)

Stanislaus NF

Field Recon

Surveyors: smt							Date: 9/12/2013	

Calveg — **Polygon #:** WBP0912143 **GPS waypoint #:** — **GPS in stand?** Y / N **If No, distance/bearing:** 60m / 34° — smt

Correct (Y) N **UTME** 268835 **UTMN** 4248698 **Error: +/-** 15 **GPS name:** SAL

Aspect: 268° **Elevation:** ? **ft/m Size of stand:** ≈5 **acre Photograph #'s:** CAM 5 @ 24° & 33° 46-47

Field alliance name: Pinus albicaulis **Site Impacts:** No obvious symptoms of WPBR (flagging)

Comments: projected point from base (see other form). Calveg poly Object ID # 45 Dead branches/stems but overall stand looks healthy.

Tree cover/ht /dbh: / / **Shrub cover/ht:** / **Herbaceous cover/ht:** / **% Density**

Strata	Species	% cover	Strata	Species	% cover	Strata	Species	% cover

Calveg — **Polygon #:** WBP0912144 **GPS waypoint #:** — **GPS in stand?** Y / (N) **If No, distance/bearing:** 97m / 6° — smt

Correct (Y) N **UTME** 268604 **UTMN** 4249155 **Error: +/-** 1.5 **GPS name:** SAL

Aspect: 260° **Elevation:** ? **ft/m Size of stand:** ≈3 **acre Photograph #'s:** CAM 5 @ 0° 48

Field alliance name: Pinus albicaulis **Site Impacts:** no obvious symptoms of WPBR (flagging)

Comments: projected point between Calveg polys. Object ID 48, 46, 49 all PIAL (point needs to be moved into poly Object ID 47) Pic 48 shows PIAL calveg polys along west flank of ridge line

Tree cover/ht /dbh: / / **Shrub cover/ht:** / **Herbaceous cover/ht:** / **% Density**

Strata	Species	% cover	Strata	Species	% cover	Strata	Species	% cover

Polygon #: WBP0912149 **GPS waypoint #:** — **GPS in stand?** (Y) N **If No, distance/bearing:** /

Correct Y / N **UTME** 268597 **UTMN** 4248078 **Error: +/-** 1.5 **GPS name:** SAL — smt

Aspect: 280° **Elevation:** ? **ft/m Size of stand:** ≈2 **acre Photograph #'s:** CAM 5 (N) 49-52

Field alliance name: Pinus albicaulis **Site Impacts:** no symptoms of WPBR

Comments: Open stand w/ no obvious signs of mortality w/in stand. Relatively healthy. Didn't look for MPB attacks

Tree cover/ht /dbh: / / **Shrub cover/ht:** / **Herbaceous cover/ht:** / **% Density**

Strata	Species	% cover	Strata	Species	% cover	Strata	Species	% cover

9/13/2013 — **Polygon #:** WBP0913023 **GPS waypoint #:** — **GPS in stand?** (Y) / N **If No, distance/bearing:** / — smt

Correct Y / N **UTME** 254959 **UTMN** 4263251 **Error: +/-** 1.8 **GPS name:** SAL

Aspect: 2° **Elevation:** 2637 **ft/(m) Size of stand:** ≤1 **acre Photograph #'s:** CAM 5 (N) 53-56

Field alliance name: Pinus albicaulis **Site Impacts:** MPB 1=2%, 0=8%, 2=9% symptoms of WPBR

Comments: Small stand of WBP. Some mortality from unk. source (little MPB attack but not substantial). P. monticola has MPB attack also. Some cones on stems.

Tree cover/ht /dbh: / / **Shrub cover/ht:** / **Herbaceous cover/ht:** / **% Density**

Strata	Species	% cover	Strata	Species	% cover	Strata	Species	% cover
T	P. albicaulis	40	T	Pinus monticola	1	D	P. albicaulis	+ (3 stems total)
T/A/E	Abies magnifica	+/1/+	S	Ribes sp.	3	c		

↳ WPBR on lvs?

Appendix 3: Overview Maps of 2013 Locations Visited on the National Forest

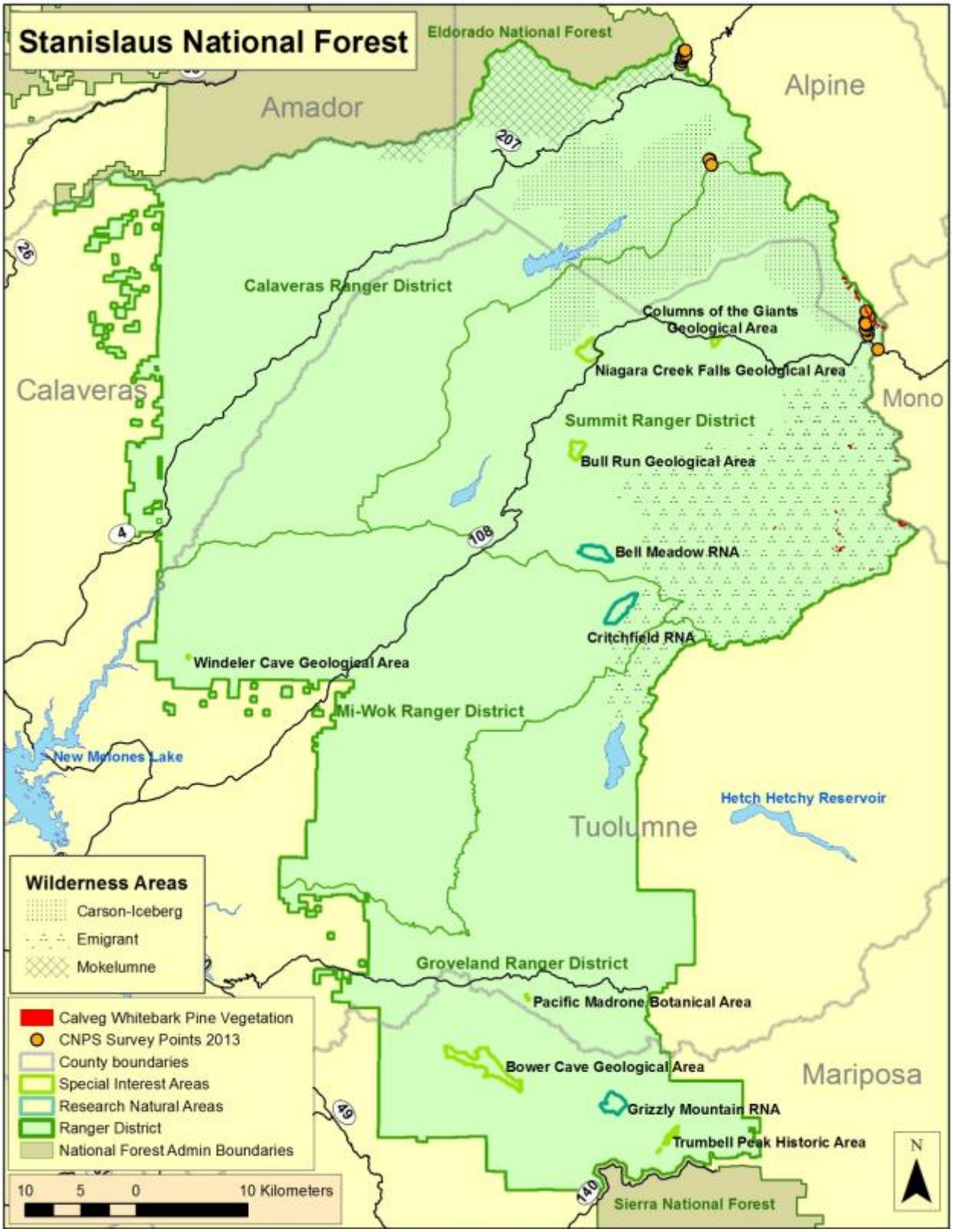


Figure 3. Overview map of Stanislaus National Forest with forest areas and vegetation data.

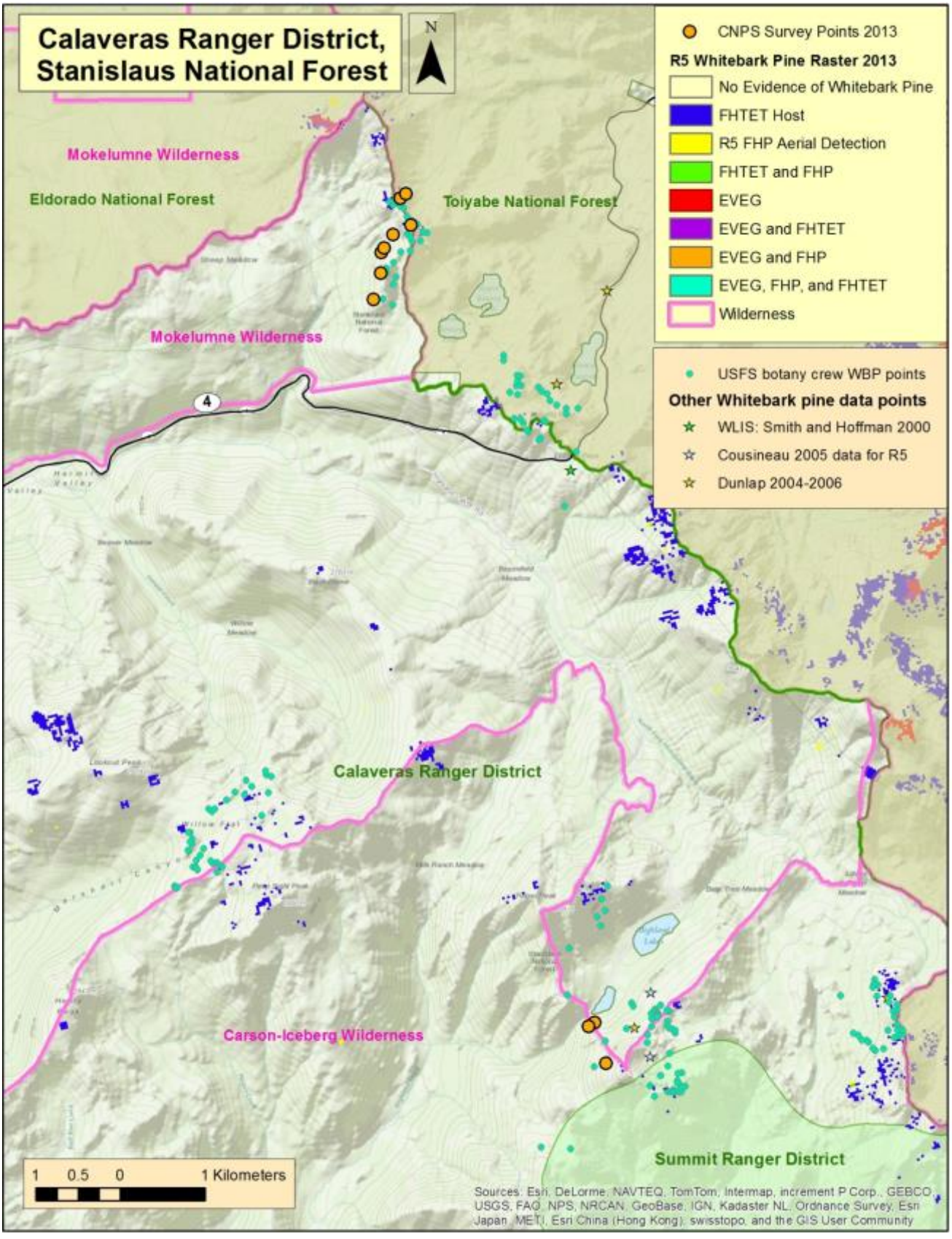


Figure 4 Overview map of Calaveras Ranger District with vegetation data.

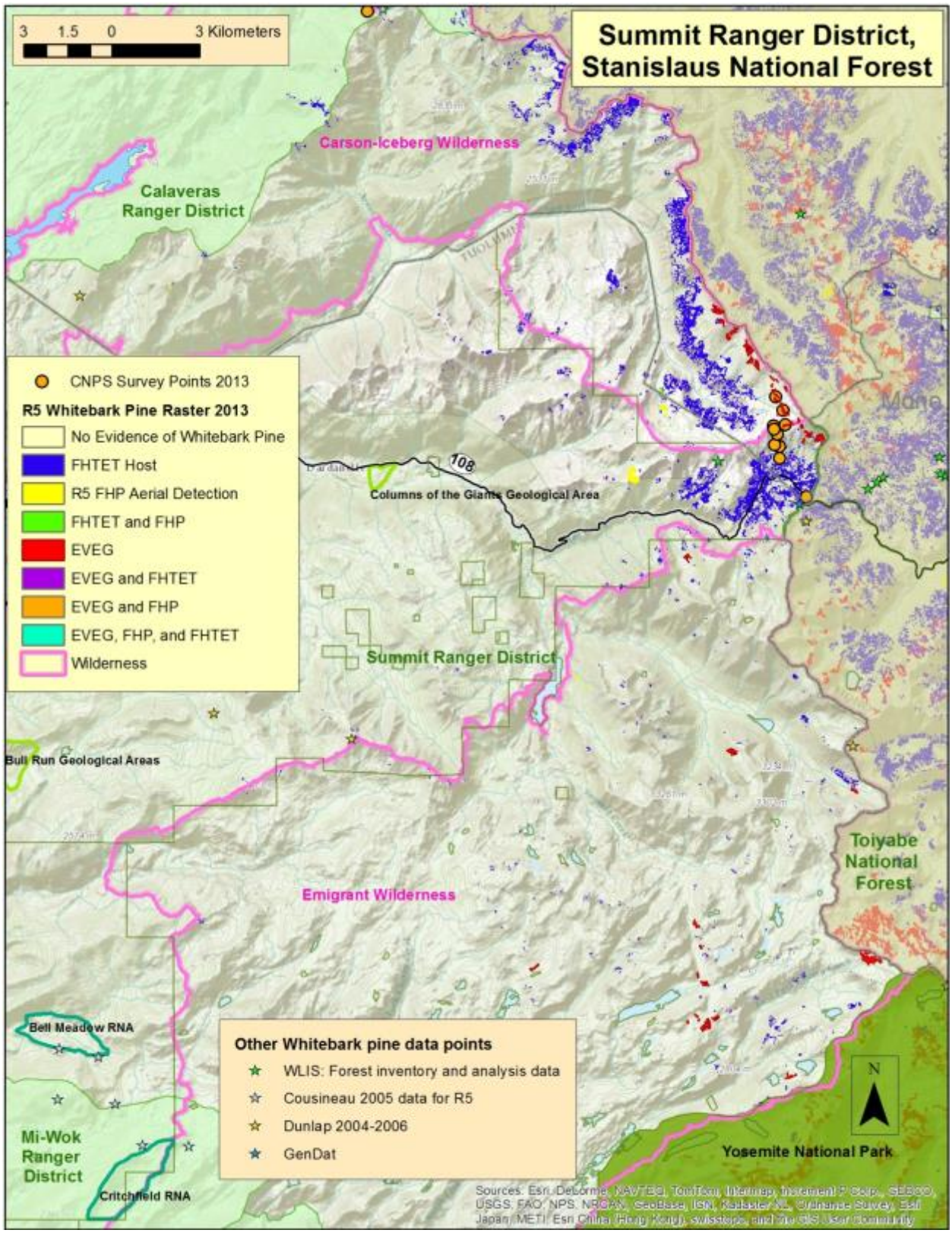


Figure 5. Overview map of Summit Ranger District with vegetation data.

Appendix 4: Summary Tables from the CNDDB Rare Plant Occurrence Forms and the CNPS Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevé Form

Table 1. Rapid Assessment summary, Stanislaus NF

DbaseID	County	Ranger District	Wilderness	Site name	Alliance	Estimated Pct Cover PIAL	PIAL Seedlings Present	PIAL Saplings Present	Altitude (m)	Impacts
WBP0142	Alpine	Calaveras	Carson-Iceberg	Hiram Peak	*Pinus albicaulis*	8	yes	yes	2796	Rust (7%)
WBP0122	Alpine	Calaveras	Mokelumne	Reynolds Peak	*Pinus monticola*	2			2702	MPB (75%), Rust (10%)
WBP0123	Alpine	Calaveras	Mokelumne	Reynolds Peak	*Pinus albicaulis*	29	yes		2699	MPB (78%), Rust (21%)
WBP0124	Alpine	Calaveras	Mokelumne	Reynolds Peak	*Tsuga mertensiana*	2	yes	yes	2691	MPB (41%), Rust (1%)
WBP0127	Alpine	Calaveras	Mokelumne	Reynolds Peak	*Pinus albicaulis*	29			2856	MPB (30%), Rust (42%)
WBP0132	Alpine	Summit		St. Mary's Pass	*Pinus albicaulis*	12	yes	yes	2990	Other (low), MPB (15%), Rust (1%)
WBP0134	Alpine	Summit		St. Mary's Pass	*Pinus albicaulis*	28			3122	MPB (9%), Rust (11%)

Table 2. *Pinus albicaulis* attributes from Rapid Assessments in Stanislaus NF

DbaseID	Site name	Stand Size	Clumps per hectare	Stems per hectare	Percent Vegetative	Percent Flowering	Percent Fruiting	Mortality by MPB	Total Mortality	Quality
WBP0142	Hiram Peak	1-5 acres	69.2	615.4	68		32	0	3%	Excellent
WBP0122	Reynolds Peak	1-5 acres	10.0	60.0	93		7	21%	21%	Poor
WBP0123	Reynolds Peak	< 1 acre	40.0	380.0	92		8	21%	21%	Poor
WBP0124	Reynolds Peak	1-5 acres	70.0	290.0	100			0	7%	Fair
WBP0127	Reynolds Peak	1-5 acres	7.5	53.8	86		14	0	0	Fair
WBP0132	St. Mary's Pass	1-5 acres	38.1	261.9	88	1	12	0	3%	Good
WBP0134	St. Mary's Pass	1-5 acres	22.5	87.5	57	1	43	0	3%	Good

Table 3. Reconnaissance summary, Stanislaus NF. Note that points WBP0128 and WBP0129 fall within the boundaries of Toiyabe NF.

DbaseID	County	Ranger District	Wilderness	Site name	Alliance	Stand size	Estimated Pct Cover PIAL	PIAL Seedlings Present	PIAL Saplings Present	Altitude (m)	Impacts
WBP0140	Alpine	Calaveras		Hiram Peak	*Pinus albicaulis*	< 1 acre	40			2637	MPB (2%), Rust (29%)
WBP0141	Alpine	Calaveras	Carson-Iceberg	Hiram Peak	*Pinus albicaulis*	n/a	n/a			2700	
WBP0125	Alpine	Calaveras	Mokelumne	Reynolds Peak	Subalpine Conifers	< 1 acre	3			2682	MPB (52%), Rust (trace)
WBP0126	Alpine	Calaveras	Mokelumne	Reynolds Peak	*Pinus albicaulis*	< 1 acre	30			2736	MPB (43%), Rust (trace)
WBP0128	Alpine	Carson	Mokelumne	Reynolds Peak	*Pinus albicaulis*	n/a	n/a				
WBP0129	Alpine	Carson	Mokelumne	Reynolds Peak	*Pinus albicaulis*	< 1 acre	n/a			2726	Rust (trace)
WBP0130	Alpine	Summit		St. Mary's Pass	*Pinus contorta* subsp. *murrayana*	n/a	n/a				
WBP0131	Alpine	Summit		St. Mary's Pass	*Pinus albicaulis*	n/a	n/a			2918	
WBP0133	Alpine	Summit		St. Mary's Pass	*Pinus albicaulis*	1-5 acres	10.4	yes	yes	3000	MPB (8%), Rust (trace)
WBP0136	Alpine	Summit		St. Mary's Pass	*Pinus albicaulis*	< 1 acre	n/a				
WBP0139	Alpine	Summit		St. Mary's Pass	*Pinus albicaulis*	1-5 acres	n/a				
WBP0137	Alpine	Summit	Carson-Iceberg	St. Mary's Pass	*Pinus albicaulis*	1-5 acres	n/a				
WBP0138	Alpine	Summit	Carson-Iceberg	St. Mary's Pass	*Pinus albicaulis*	1-5 acres	n/a				

Appendix 5: Photos from 2013 Field Work

Figure 6. Mixed *Tsuga mertensiana* and *Pinus albicaulis* stand South of Reynolds Peak, Mokelumne Wilderness.

Figure 7. *Pinus albicaulis* stand on the border of Stanislaus and Toiyabe National Forests, Mokelumne Wilderness.

Figure 8. Mature *Pinus albicaulis* stand (with regeneration) along St. Mary's Trail, south of Carson-Iceberg Wilderness.

Figure 9. *Pinus albicaulis* stand on steep slope near St. Mary's Pass, bordering Carson-Iceberg Wilderness

Appendix 6: Detailed Maps of Positive and Negative Data for Whitebark Pine

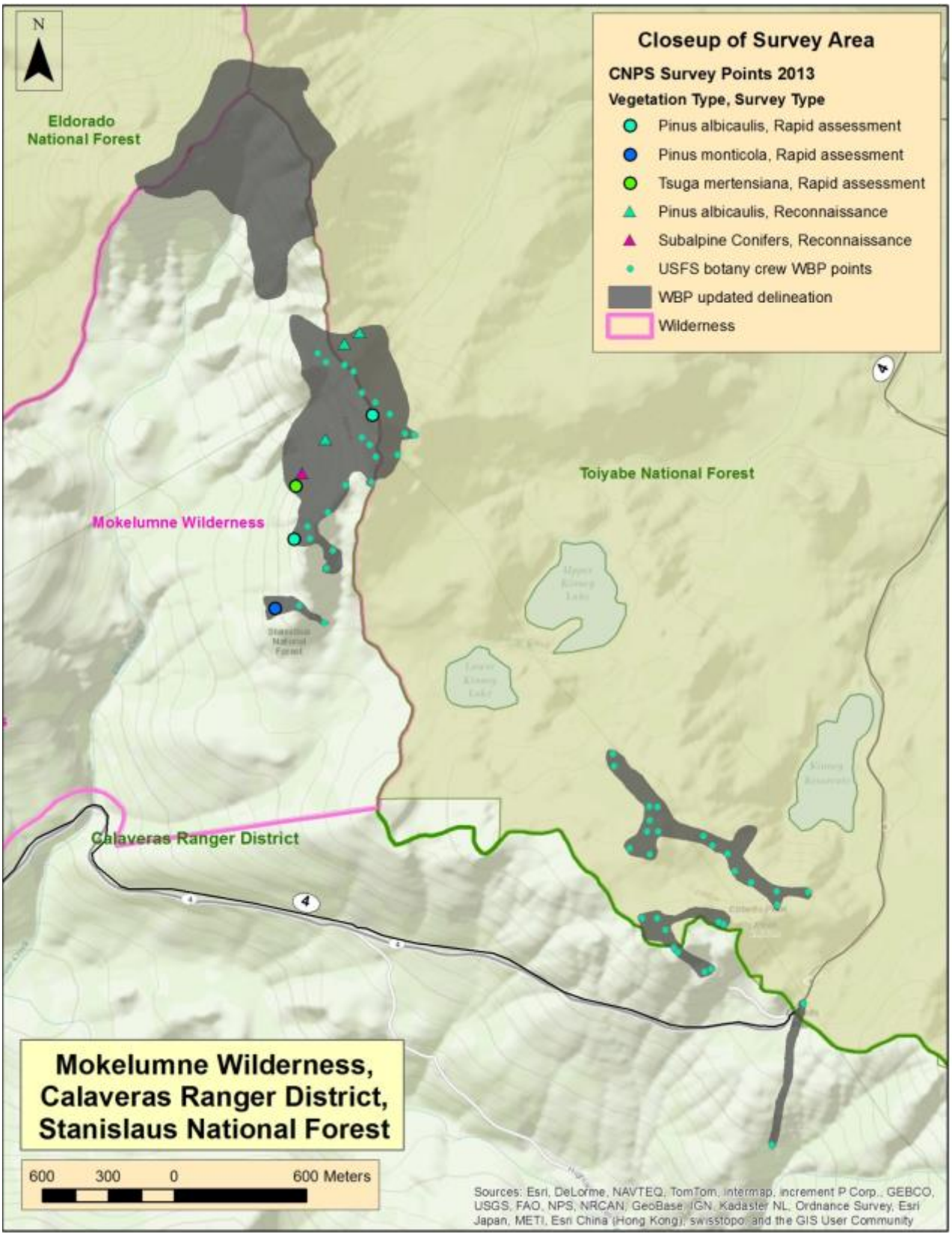


Figure 10. Map of positive vegetation data for Mokelumne Wilderness.

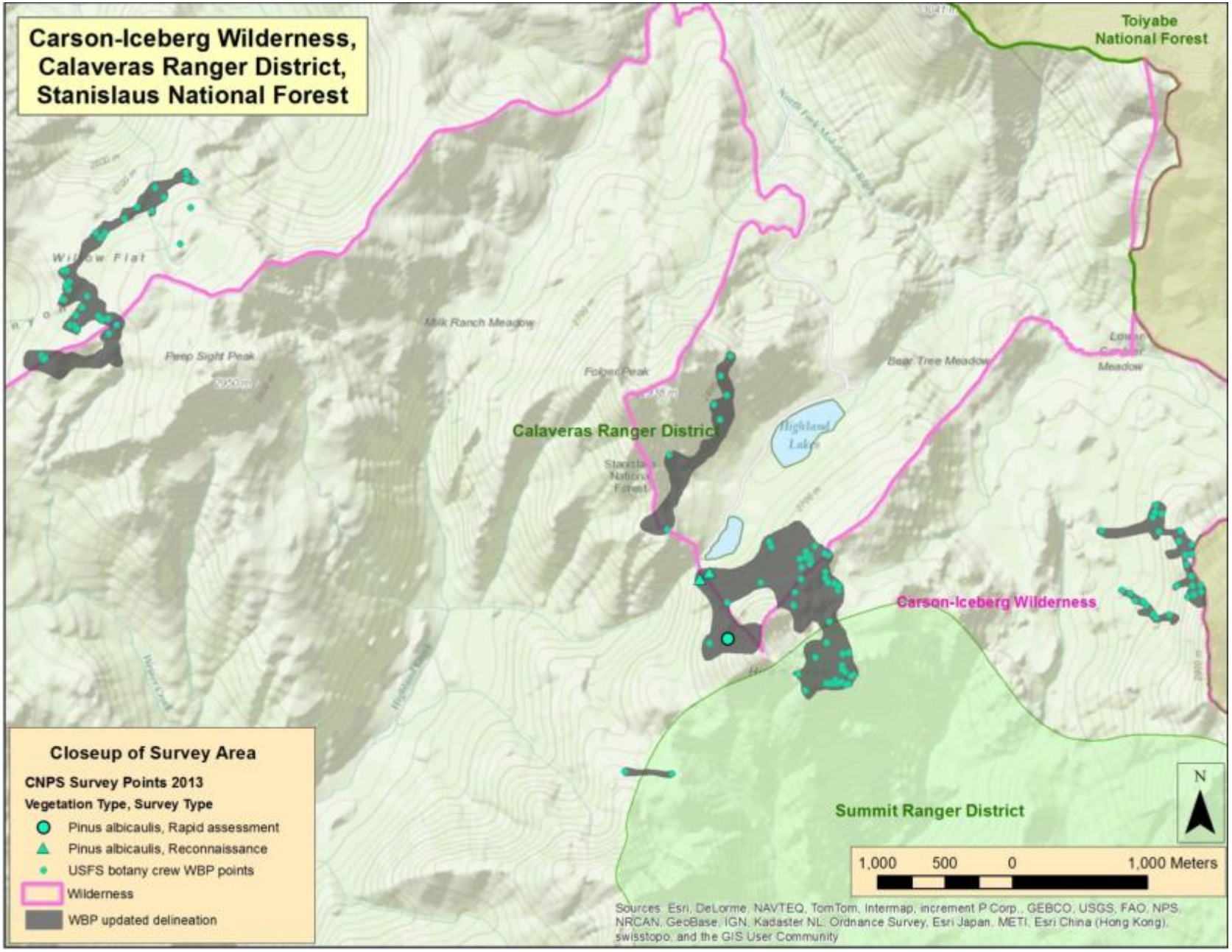


Figure 11. Map of positive vegetation data for Carson-Iceberg Wilderness and adjacent areas in Calaveras Ranger District.

M

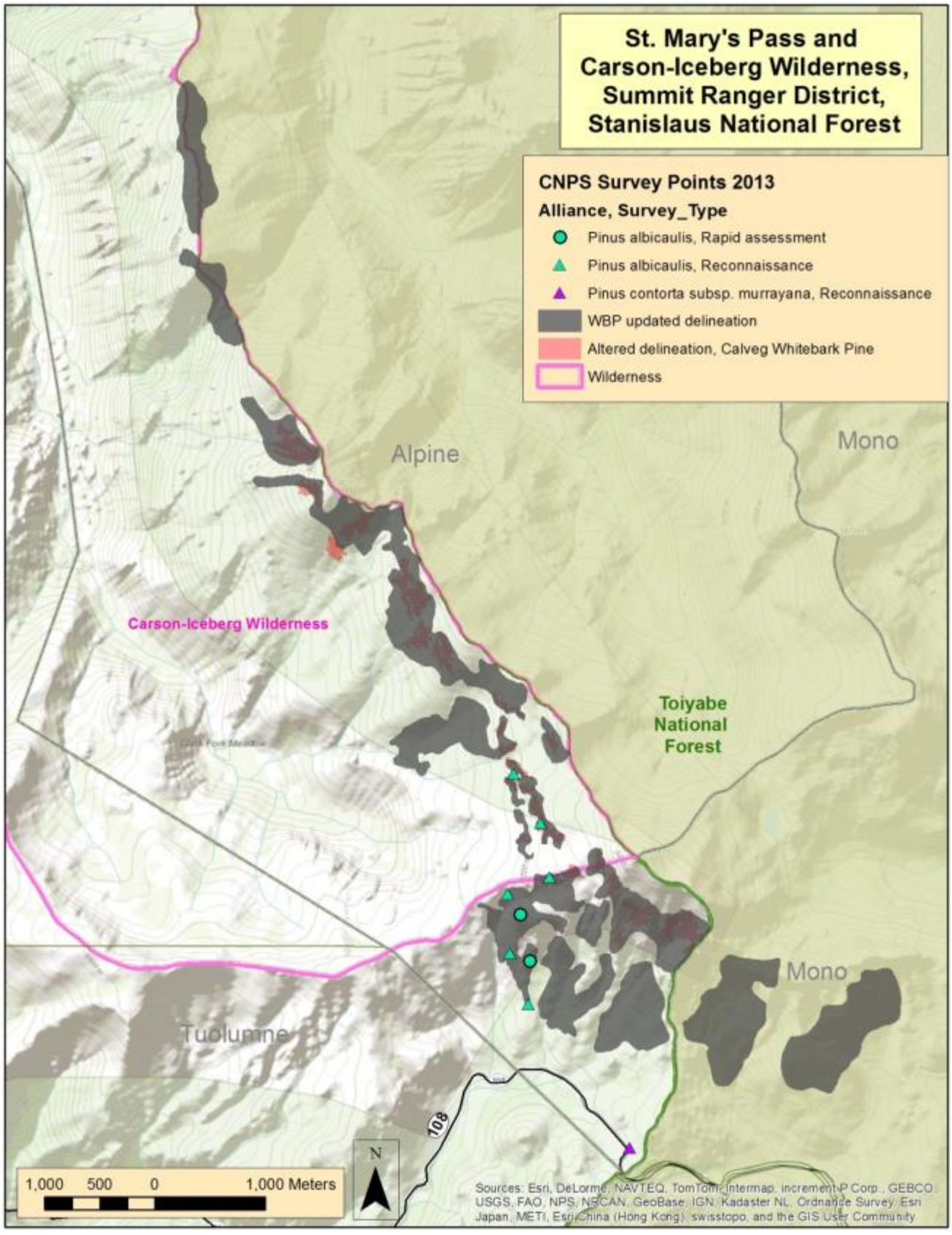


Figure 12. Map of positive vegetation data for Carson-Iceberg Wilderness and adjacent areas in Summit Ranger District.

Appendix 7: Recommended Protocols for Future Work

Whitebark Pine Inventory and Monitoring Plot Protocol
Revised: May 16, 2013

Introduction:
This protocol was developed collaboratively by the USFS Region 5 Ecology Program and Forest Health Protection Program to provide inventory and status-and-trend monitoring data in stands dominated by whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) or lodgepole pine (*P. contorta*) with whitebark pine as a codominant species. It also focuses on stands that have experienced recent tree mortality related to insects (mountain pine beetle) or diseases (white pine blister rust). This protocol was developed using elements of the Regional Ecology Program post-fire regeneration monitoring protocol and the Forest Health Protection Whitebark Pine Monitoring Plot Protocol for the Warner Mountains, Modoc National Forest (the FHP protocol is based on *Greater Yellowstone Whitebark Pine Monitoring Working Group* [GYWPMWG] *Interagency Whitebark Pine Monitoring Protocol for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem 2007*).

I. Site attributes:

- Record the location (geographic or watershed scale), site (topographic scale), and plot number (micro-scale).
- Use a GPS device to locate plot center - take care to avoid biasing the location.
- Monument permanent plots (established for monitoring rather than inventory) with 2-foot long rebar driven approximately 1.5 ft into the ground at plot center. Label with plot number and mount safety cap. Include brief notes of plot location using distinctive landscape features, if any.
- Record the date that data were collected.
- Record the crew names of the people collecting the data.
- Establish a plot with a radius of 12.6 m, which is approximately 0.05 ha (0.124 acres). Flag four places around the perimeter for reference.
- Record the dominant tree species present.
- Take one photograph from a point 12.6 m south of the plot center, looking north. Make sure you have something (pin flag) at plot center so it can be relocated. using the photo. Take another photograph from a point 12.6 m north of the plot center, looking south (toward pin flag). Record both photo numbers.
- Record the average slope of the plot in percent (use clinometer).
- Record the average aspect of the plot in degrees (use compass [make sure you have the right declination])

II. Vegetation and ground cover attributes

- Estimate the cover (%) of: *basal vegetation* (i.e. the area covered by the bases of tree boles, shrub stems, herbs), *litter*, *bare ground*, *rock* (>2 mm diameter), and *woody debris* (>3 inches [7.5 cm] diameter), summing to 100% (imagine chopping off all vegetation at ground level, what do you have left?; it is rare for basal vegetation to be more than 5%, unless there are trees or many large shrubs in the plot). Record cover vales to nearest 5%, using 0.5% as trace cover
- Estimate vegetation cover to nearest 1% (1-10% cover), 5% (10-30%) or 10% (30-100%):

- % Overstory veg cover = cover of plants >2 m in height (trees and tall shrubs; this is a snapshot of total canopy cover taken from above, i.e. it is the % of the plot that has trees/tall shrubs covering it. Tree/tall shrubs growing completely beneath other trees/tall shrubs are not counted as they cannot be seen from above) (see Figure 1)
    - Estimate cover of live trees and tall shrubs
    - Also estimate % dead cover (trace circles around the remnants of dead trees >2 m in height). When this value is added to the live cover it should give us an estimate of the total pre-beetle mortality live cover.
- % Shrub and Herbaceous plant cover = cover of understory vegetation <2 m in height (this is a snapshot of total understory cover taken from above, i.e. it is the % of the plot that has understory vegetation covering it. Understory plants growing completely beneath other plants are not counted, as they cannot be seen from above) (see Figure 1).
- Record separately the cover of aspen <3 m in height. Aspen >3 m height should be recorded as overstory cover.

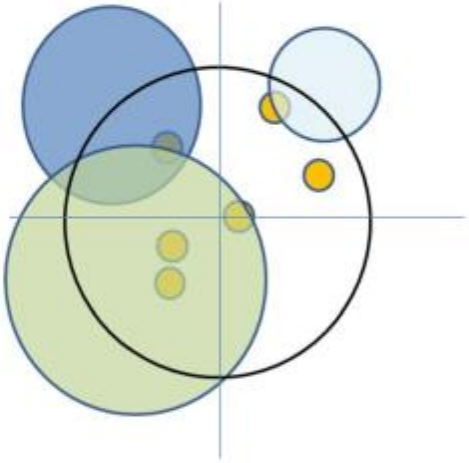


Fig. 1. Circular plot, with four species of understory plants (colored). The blue crosshairs are added to aid in estimating cover. The understory vegetation cover is about 64% (the total plot area minus the area that is not covered by live vegetation. The gray species (shrub) has 49% cover, the dark blue species (shrub) has 17% cover, the light blue species (grass) has 4%, and the orange species (forb) has 6% (each orange circle is 1% in this case). Due to plant overlap, summing the different species' cover values gives a value that is larger than the total understory vegetation cover (76% vs. 64%). Overall shrub cover in this plot is 58% (two shrub species, subtracting overlap; summed up [i.e., ignoring overlap], the two species have 66% cover between them). Herb cover is 9.5%; forb cover is 6%; grass cover is 4%. Each shrub species will have its own cover entered in the species-cover section of the datasheet. Cover is measured by drawing a line around the outside of the plant canopy, ignoring gaps that may be found within the perimeter. For plots of this size (500 m^2), your clipboard is about 0.015% of the plot area.

III. Basal area, snags, and litter depth

- Use the basal area gauge (20 factor) to record the basal area of live and dead whitebark pine and other tree species (e.g., lodgepole pine) in the stand
  - Swinging the gauge around the plot center, tally the number of trees that are larger than the 20 factor aperture. Count live and dead trees separately for each species.
- Record the species and dbh of any older snags (>7 years; **prior to 2005**) in the plot. Only record snags that are >1.37 m tall.
- Measure litter depth at 3 locations midpoint between plot center and plot perimeter in 3 directions (0°, 120°, and 240°).

IV. Tree regeneration attributes

- Tally the number of seedlings and saplings (trees less than 7.6 cm dbh of each tree species for each age class)
  - Use a separate row for each species and basal cluster (see below).
  - Count the number of live and dead stems arising from each seedling or sapling cluster. Clusters are defined using the following two criteria:
    - Stems are less than 10 cm at the base from the cluster of other stems
    - Diameter of stem (saplings only) must not exceed 25% of next largest stem in the cluster
  - Determine minimum age by counting the bud scars, subtracting the current year
  - Record dbh for saplings (>1.37 m height) only
  - In the Health Code column, note the number of seedlings or saplings in each cluster that exhibit health issues and include the appropriate health codes for these numbers (e.g., 2-a). Health codes include:
    - C = cankers or stem swelling
    - SC = stalactiform canker (*P. contorta* only) as spindle-like in middle of bole
    - P = pitching
    - F = branch flagging
    - S = needle spots
    - T = twig beetle sign (e.g. terminal branch flagging and pitch tubes)
    - 2 = secondary beetle
    - M = dwarf mistletoe
    - R = native rusts – take photo and collect sample when available
    - H = sapsucker/woodpecker holes
    - A = aecia (i.e., rust fruiting body) or aeciospores
      - Take closeup photos of any branches displaying aecia and consider collecting samples for laboratory identification
      - Aecia could be a sign on WPBR or a native rust
  - Record the height for the tallest individual seedling of each species

V. Understory vegetation attributes

- Measure the modal height and overall cover for the four most common (by % cover) shrub and herbaceous plant species in the plot. Additional understory species may be noted in the Notes section . Especially note the presence of species in the genera *Ribes*, *Castilleja*, and *Pedicularis* (WPBR secondary hosts)
  - Measure cover to nearest 5%, 0.5% = trace cover
  - Modal height is the most common height

VI. Notes section

Items of interest to record in the notes section:

- If fire scars or other evidence of fire are in the plot
- If plot is located on a unique (non-granitic) substrate (e.g., pumice soils)
- If plot has been treated in some way - specify
- If non-native species are on plot or adjacent to plot - specify
- If other mortality agents (insects, diseases) are present - specify
- If WPBR, mountain pine beetle, twig beetle, or other potential mortality agents are observed adjacent to plot but not recorded within the plot
- If conifer stumps are present from trees that may have parented seedlings before they were cut
- Additional understory species if more than four shrubs or herbaceous plants
- Other notes?

VII. Tree attributes

For all trees (>7.6 cm dbh) record the following information

- Species ID, and number live and dead stems in each cluster. Tree clusters are defined by stems that are less than 1 m at the base from the cluster of other stems of similar size (diameter and height).
- Individual stems growing in close proximity will be defined as individual tree stems or branches using the following GYWPMWG (2007) criteria:
  1) There must be a discernible growth groove that separates that stem from other stems of the tree.
  2) The diameter of a given stem must be more than 25% of the diameter of the largest stem.
  3) The stem must be less than one foot from the "mother" tree to which it is associated. Otherwise it is to be considered as a separate seedling, sapling, or tree.
  4) The angle of the stem in question must be no less than a 45° angle from the main stem.
- For each cluster, provide a consecutively-numbered cluster ID number. For each stem within a cluster, provide a stem ID value.
- Record the dbh of all live and dead stems in each cluster.

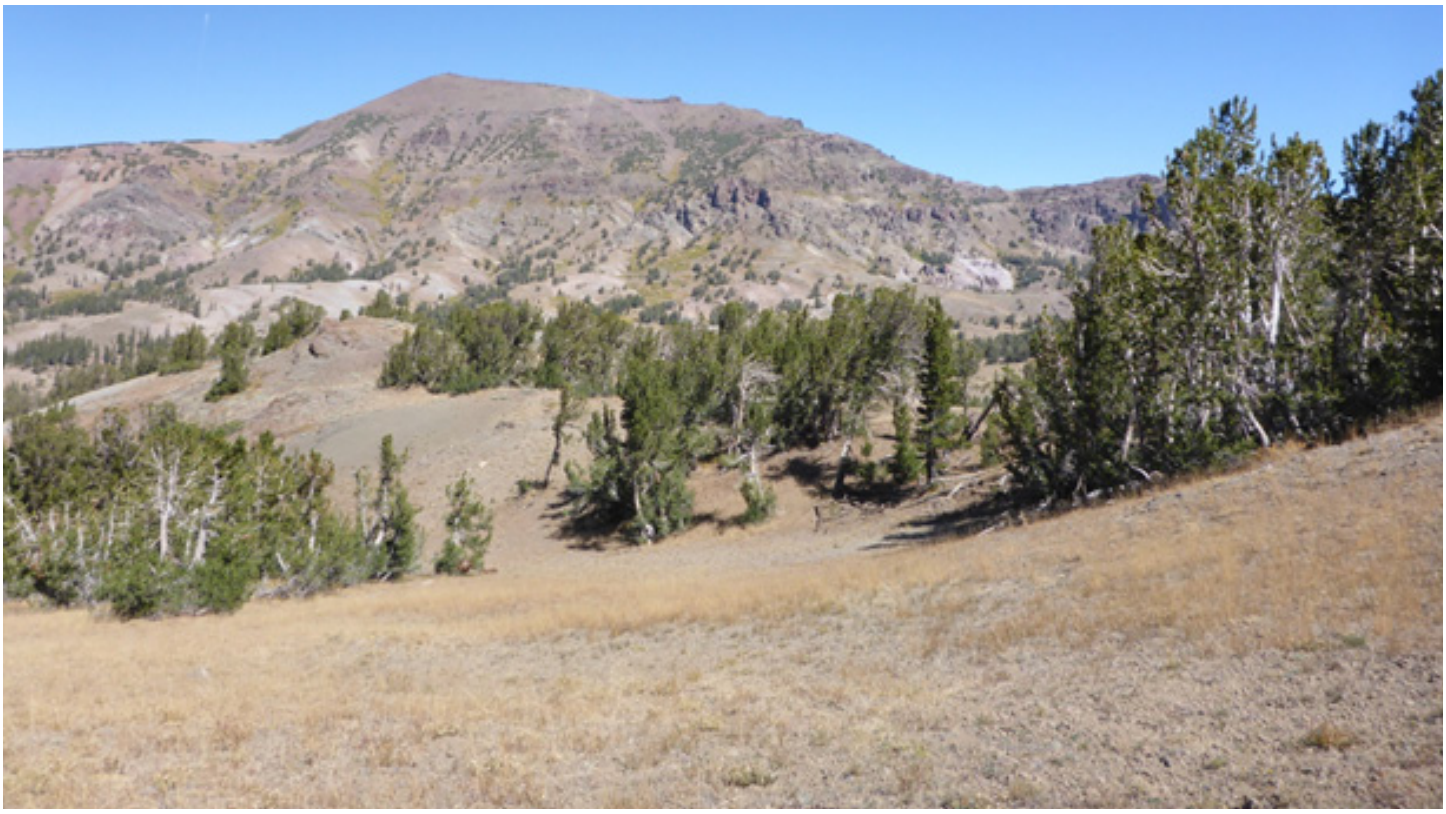
- For monumented monitoring plots, nail aluminum tags to all live trees that are counted with the basal area gauge (20 factor) sweep. Begin consecutively-numbered tags at the northernmost tree proceeding clockwise. Nail tags at dbh so that each tag faces plot center, leaving approximately one inch of space between the nail head and the tree bole in order to avoid damage during tree growth. Enter tag numbers in the Notes column.
- Note with a checkmark whether live basal sprouts are present for a given tree cluster. These basal sprouts are defined as smaller-diameter (typically <7.6 cm dbh) live stems located at the base and often surrounding clusters of larger live and dead tree clusters (typically with stems exceeding 20 cm dbh).
- Note the % of live crown in the stem (largest live is the default) in increments of 10% using the following coding system: 1 = 10%, 2 = 20%, 3 = 30%, etc.
- Note the level of mountain pine beetle attack using the following:
  - 0 = No evidence of attack or beetle pitch tubes or unknown
  - 1 = less than 5 observable beetle pitch tubes ('hits')
  - 2 = less than 50% of the bole is attacked; sporadic pitch tubes spread on most parts of the bole or several localized areas with a high density (>10) pitch tubes
  - 3 = greater than 50% of the bole is attacked; numerous pitch tubes spread on many parts of the bole
- Estimate the time since mountain pine beetle attack based on the following system:
  - 0 = less than one year since attack (occurred during current season); typically little sign of crown discoloration or dead needles but evidence of beetle attack
  - 1 = approximately one year since attack (last season); crown shows significant density of dead or dying needles (substantial portion of crown contains brown/orange colored needles)
  - 2 = two years since attack; entire crown consists of dead (brown/orange colored) needles that are mostly intact
  - 3 = three years since attack; most but not all of dead needles have fallen from crown, with few clusters of dead needles retained
  - 4 = four to seven years since attack; no dead needles retained in crown; smaller branches may have broken off and fallen, with most larger to medium branches retained
- Record the number of cones in the tree using the following numeric system:
  - 0 = no cones
  - 1 = 1 to 10 cones
  - 2 = 11 to 100 cones
  - 3 = greater than 100 cones
- Record the health code for each tree using the codes listed under the tree regeneration attributes section (see above)
- In Notes column record any remarkable observations pertaining to a tree or tree cluster, including:
  - lightning or fire scars

- evidence of other damage caused by wildlife, humans, or unknown causes
- Other notable features or observations

VIII. Seed-Caching Wildlife Point Counts (optional, if time permits)

- At end of vegetation sampling period, return to each plot and spend 5 minutes noting any visual or auditory sign of Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*), Douglas' squirrel (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*), lodgepole chipmunk (*Neotamias speciosus*), golden-mantled ground squirrel (*Callospermophilus lateralis*), or any other seed-eating species within 50 m of each side of transect. Record plot number, observer, time and date of survey, and number of each species observed at each sample point (i.e., plot).
- Note any observations of seed caching, seed dispersal, or seed predation during survey period.
- Record data on separate field notebook

2018 Update
Whitebark Pine Pilot Fieldwork Report
Stanislaus National Forest



By Jennifer Buck-Diaz, Raphaela Floreani Buzbee, Julie Evens,
Michael Kauffmann, and Sydney Magner

In collaboration with:
Margaret Willits, Forest Botanist, Stanislaus National Forest
Diane Ikeda, Regional Botanist, Pacific Southwest Region, USDA Forest Service

November 2018

California Native Plant Society

Methods and Materials

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) obtained updated GIS data from various sources including the USFS Pacific Southwest - Region Remote Sensing Lab's CALVEG maps (USFS 2018), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) - High Elevation Species Sightings Sierra Nevada (CDFW 2018). In addition, we used the updated species profile from the CNPS Rare Plant Program, which maps the distribution of whitebark pine using many sources such as herbarium specimens and other observational data (Serkanic and Sims 2018).

CNPS reviewed the CNPS/CDFW Vegetation Rapid Assessment protocol used in the 2013 pilot project for evaluating whitebark pine vegetation and insect/disease impacts. We made minor edits and clarification to the data sheet and protocol in order to collect standardized data across the five forests. A reconnaissance (recon) form was used to gather simplified, general information about stands of vegetation, especially for whitebark pine stands that were near or adjacent to stands already sampled by a full Rapid Assessment.

Upon evaluating existing datasets and obtaining input from Stanislaus National Forest staff, Margaret Willits, we identified priority areas to ground-truth in order to determine the distribution and health/status of whitebark pine on National Forest lands. Priority areas focused on preferred alternative sites for Over-Snow Vehicle (OSV) use which intersected with predicted or suspected whitebark pine habitat.

Results

In September 2018, CNPS staff assessed whitebark pine on the Calaveras and Summit Ranger Districts of Stanislaus National Forest. Across four days, CNPS staff conducted 16 rapid assessments and 11 reconnaissance surveys.

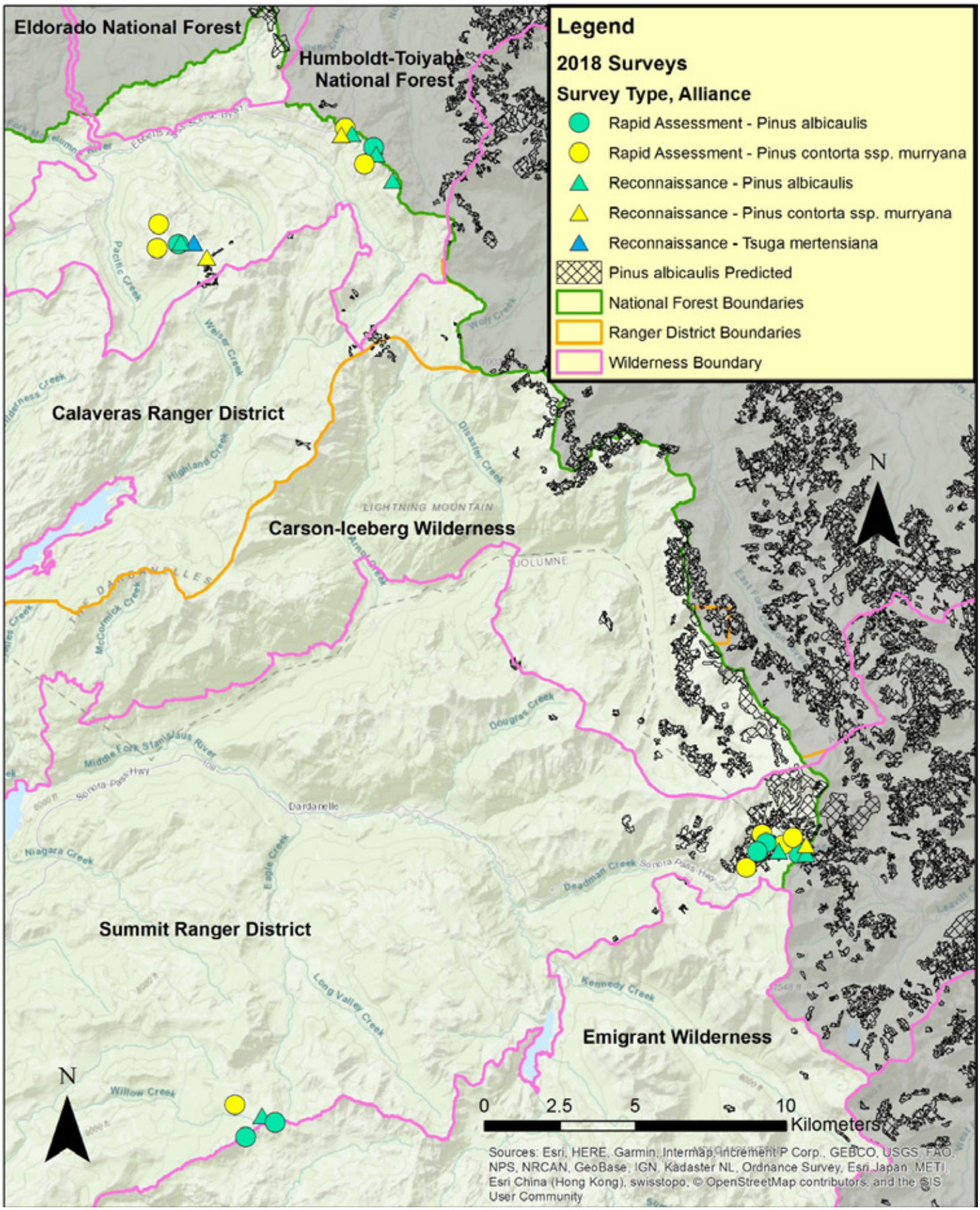
On the Calaveras Ranger District, in the vicinity of Ebbetts Pass, CNPS assessed known observations and predicted extent of whitebark pine. Three rapid assessments (1 whitebark pine dominant, 2 lodgepole pine dominant) and 4 recons (3 whitebark pine dominant, 1 lodgepole dominant) were conducted by CNPS staff. At lower elevations up to 2,600 m (8,530 ft) whitebark pine was not present, or was found with lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* spp. *murryana*) at low cover. At elevations around and above 2,800 m (9,180 ft) whitebark pine dominated in somewhat sparse and scattered stands. The health of these stands is considered 'Good' with approximately 10% mortality caused by Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) and 2% mortality of whitebark pine trees from white pine blister rust (WPBR).

On Lookout Peak above Pacific Valley and Marshall Canyon on the Calaveras Ranger District, CNPS performed 3 rapid assessments (1 whitebark pine dominant, 2 lodegpole pine dominant) and 3 recons (1 whitebark pine dominant, 1 lodgepole pine dominant, 1 mountain hemlock dominant). On the northern slopes of Lookout Peak, whitebark pine occurs in a Krummholz form, while full size trees are found on the south and west facing slopes. These are considered to be in 'Excellent' health with less than 3% mortality from WPBR.

At Sonora Pass, on the Summit Ranger District, 7 rapid assessments (3 whitebark pine dominant and 4 lodgepole dominant) and 3 recons (2 whitebark pine dominant and 1 lodepole pine dominant) were completed by CNPS staff. Whitebark pine is present across much of the area in varying cover, becoming dominant at the higher elevations, around and above 2,900 m (9,510 ft).

Near Herring Creek Reservoir on the Summit Ranger District, CNPS staff were joined by Margaret Willits, district botanist for the Mi-Wok Ranger District, where they collected 3 Rapid assessments (2 whitebark pine dominant, 1 lodgepole dominant) and 1 recon (whitebark pine dominant) around Castle Rock along the Emigrant Wilderness boundary. Whitebark pine was found in a few, small and scattered clumps around 2,850 m (9,350 ft), in previously undocumented areas. These occurrences were not predicted by either of the models. Although the trees were in 'Excellent' health, with 5% WPBR mortality, this stand may still be comprised because of its small population size and relatively low elevation.

Overview of 2018 Whitebark Pine Surveys, Stanislaus National Forest



For more detailed summary information from the field surveys, summary tables, and photographs please refer to Appendix 1. The maps that follow show predicted delineations based on CALVEG and other Forest Health Protection layers, areas of whitebark pine alliance, and areas of whitebark pine presence. These areas were assessed on the ground during field surveys. Not all predicted polygons were assessed , mapped polygons confirm presence but do not necessarily negated adjacent habitat.

Conclusions and Discussion

Whitebark pine field work in the Stanislaus National Forest was important in assessing the overall distribution of this species through the ground truth of predicted habitat. This effort and future ground truth efforts can assist in monitoring the effects of Over-Snow Vehicle use on vulnerable Krummholz populations of whitebark pine.. Using the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) protocol for documenting overall quality and viability of whitebark pine stands observed in the Stanislaus National Forest, we conclude that stands overall had excellent viability (probability of persistence) over the next 20 years.

Future Recommendations for work on the Stanislaus

Calaveras Ranger District

- Survey and ground truth predicted polygons around Highland Lakes to assess the health and extent of potential whitebark pine populations.
- Survey observations on high ridges north of Hwy 4 and east of Lake Alpine.

Summit Ranger District

- Survey observations around the Three Chimneys (9846') to assess the health and extent of whitebark pine populations - new populations of whitebark pine were found west of Three Chimneys near Castle Rock and additional populations may extend north and also west along the ridge above the Emigrant Wilderness.
- Ground truth scattered predicted polygons around Emigrant Lake and near the north and east forks of Cherry Creek

Literature Cited

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UC Berkeley. 2013. Consortium of California Herbaria. Data provided by the participants of the Consortium of California Herbaria. Data available at:

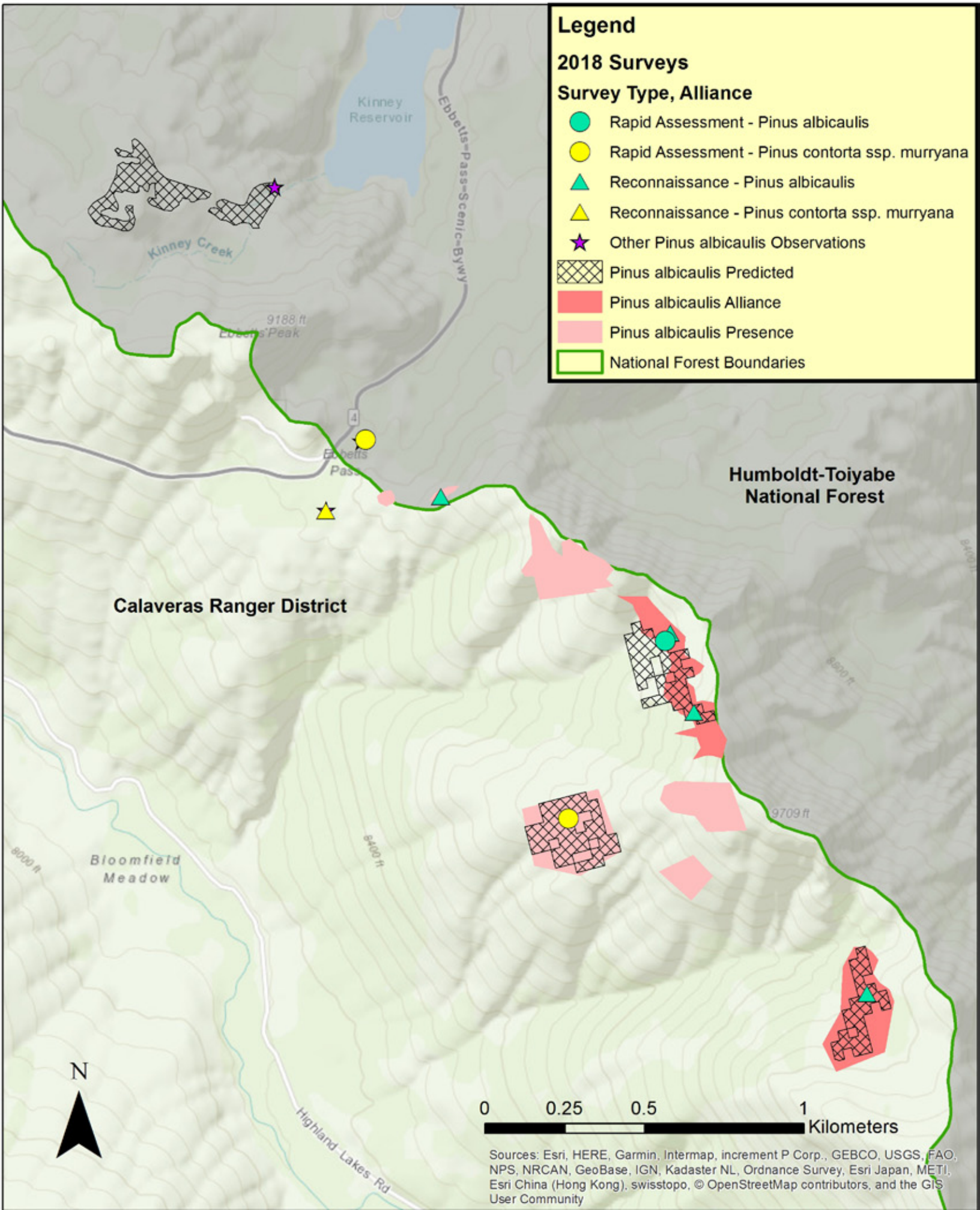
http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/get_consort.pl?taxon_name=Pinus%20albicaulis

USDA Forest Service. 2018. Whitebark Pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) range map in California. Pacific Southwest Region, Remote Sensing Lab and Region 5 Ecology Program.

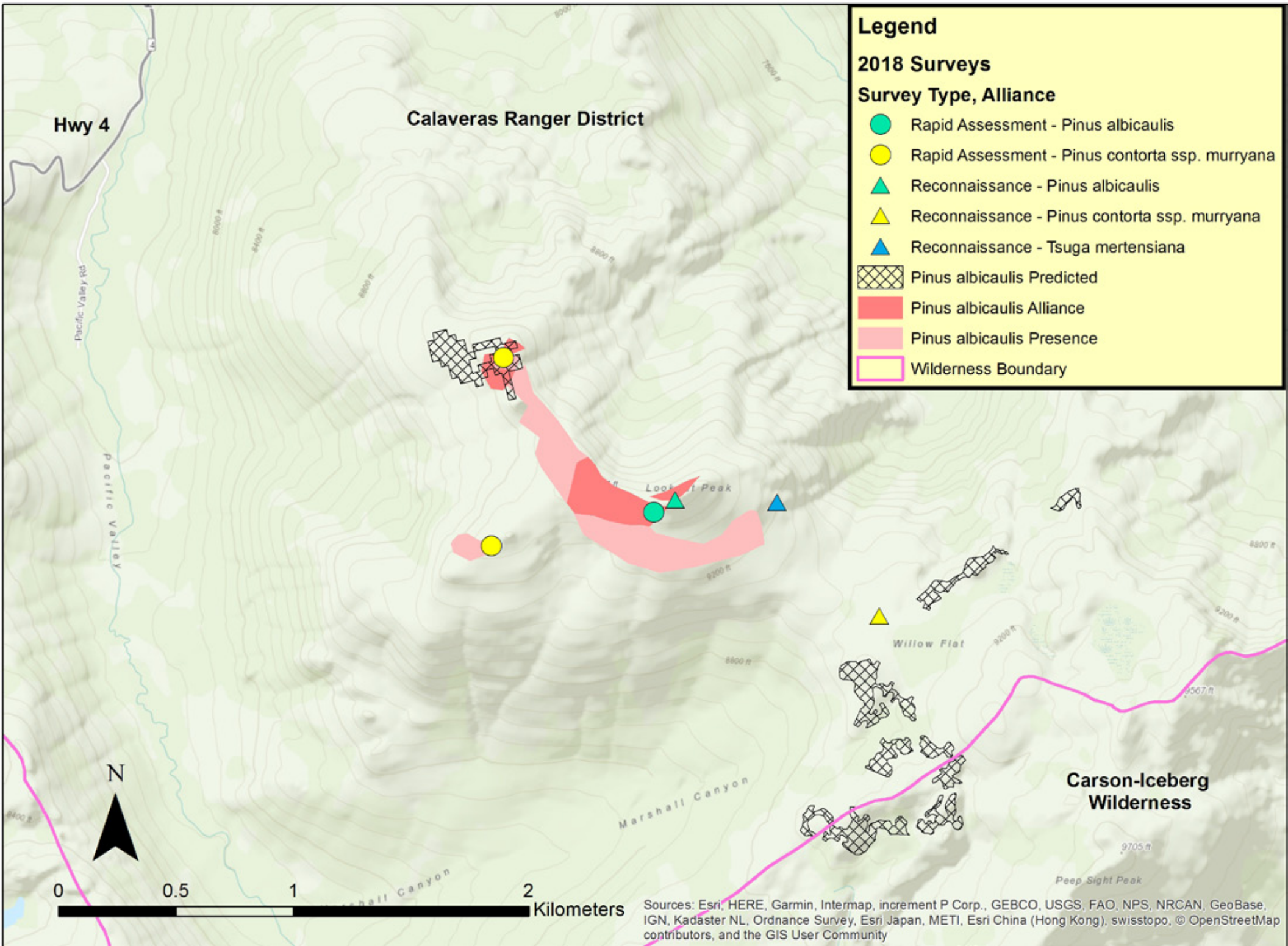
Appendix 1: Photos and tables from 2018 Field Work

Figure 1: Stunted *Pinus albicaulis* on the north slopes of Lookout Peak. Photo by CNPS.

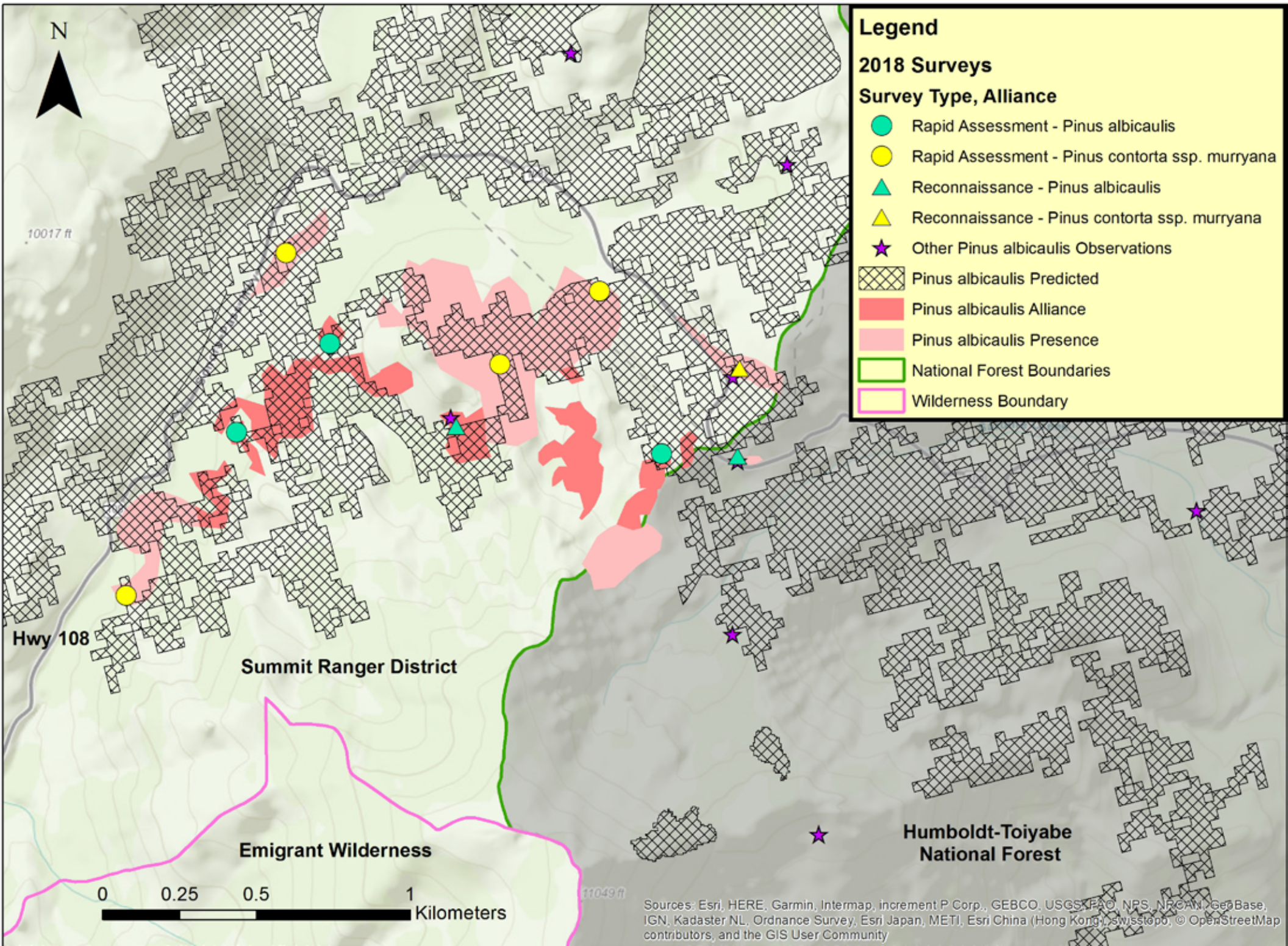
Ebbetts Pass area, Calaveras Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest



Lookout Peak area, Calaveras Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest



Sonora Pass area, Summit Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest



Castle Rock, Summit Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest

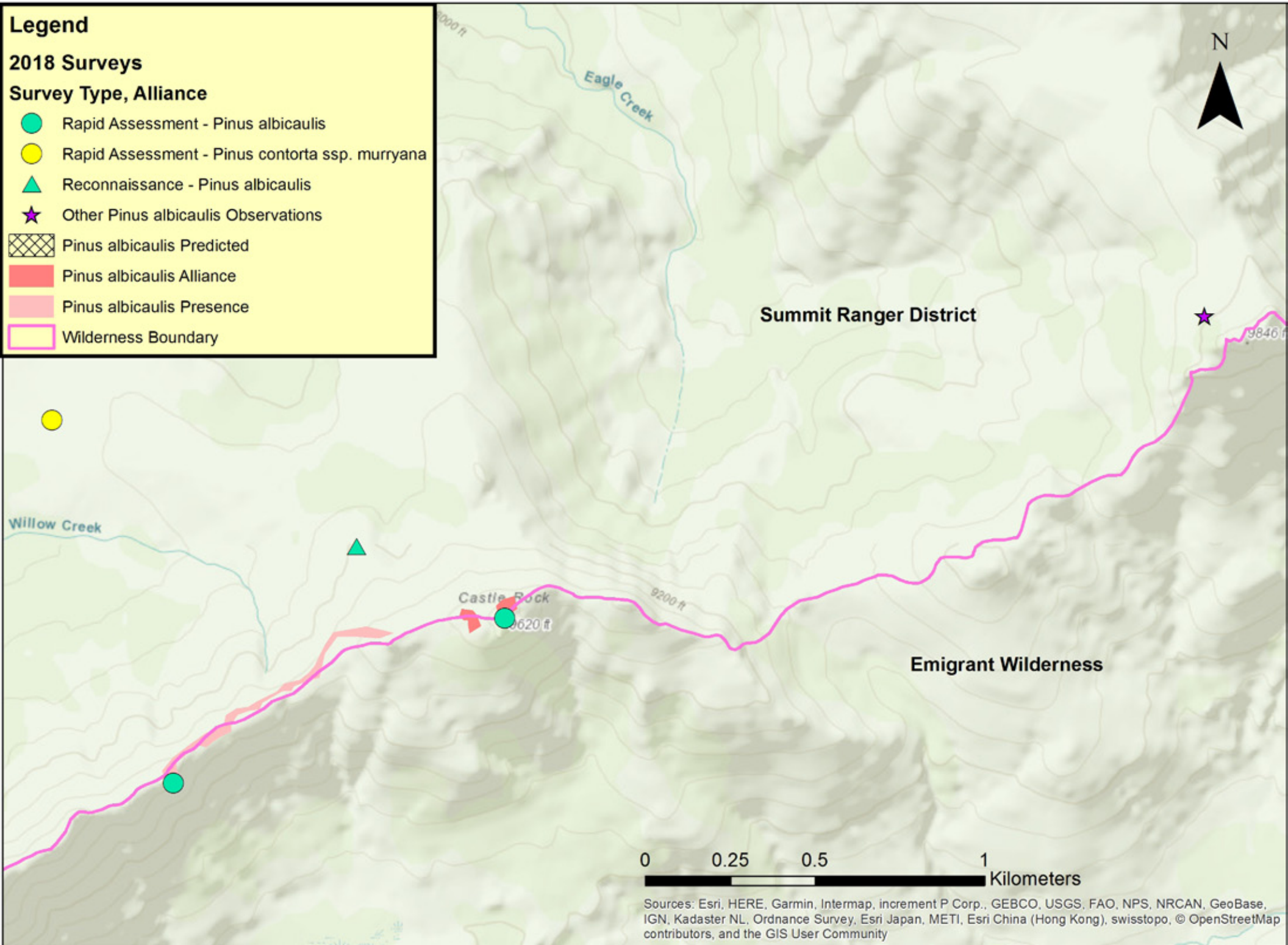


Figure 2: *Pinus albicaulis* on Lookout Peak with emerging cones. Photo by CNPS.

Figure 3 *Pinus albicaulis* on the north side of Castle Rock. Photo by CNPS.

Figure 4: Unknown *Pinus albicaulis* mortality south of Ebbetts Pass. Photo by CNPS.

Figure 5: Unknown *Pinus albicaulis* mortality on Lookout Peak. Photo by CNPS.

Figure 6: Presumed mountain pine beetle attack on *Pinus albicaulis* west of Sonora Pass. Photo by CNPS.

Table 1. Rapid Assessment summary, Sierra National Forest

DbaseID	County	Ranger District	Wilderness	Site Name	Alliance	Estimated Pct Cover PIAL	Altitude (m)	Impacts
WBP0500	Alpine	Carson	n/a	Ebbetts Pass	*Pinus contorta ssp. murryana*	0	2661	None
WBP0501	Alpine	Calaveras	n/a	Ebbetts Pass	*Pinus albicaulis*	10	2823	Grazing (low), MPB (20%)
WBP0502	Alpine	Calaveras	n/a	Ebbetts Pass	Mixed conifer	4	2786	Grazing (low), WPBR (5%)
WBP0503	Alpine	Calaveras	n/a	Lookout Peak	*Pinus albicaulis*	15	2897	WPBR (10%)
WBP0504	Alpine	Calaveras	n/a	Lookout Peak	Mixed conifer	6	2838	WPBR (3%)
WBP0505	Alpine	Calaveras	n/a	Lookout Peak	Mixed conifer	6	2837	None
WBP0506	Tuolumne	Summit	n/a	Sonora Pass	*Pinus albicaulis*	15	2950	MPB (10%), WPBR (4%)
WBP0507	Tuolumne	Summit	n/a	Sonora Pass	*Pinus contorta ssp. murryana*	8	2927	MPB (25%)
WBP0508	Tuolumne	Summit	n/a	Sonora Pass	*Pinus albicaulis*	23	2898	MPB (13%)
WBP0509	Tuolumne	Summit	n/a	Sonora Pass	*Pinus albicaulis*	31	2850	MPB (2%)
WBP0510	Tuolumne	Summit	n/a	Sonora Pass	*Pinus contorta ssp. murryana*	10	2789	MPB (2%)
WBP0511	Tuolumne	Summit	n/a	Sonora Pass	*Pinus contorta ssp. murryana*	7	2832	WPBR (5%)
WBP0512	Alpine	Summit	n/a	Sonora Pass	*Pinus contorta ssp. murryana*	4	2891	None
WBP0513	Tuolumne	Summit	n/a	Castle Rock	Mixed conifer	0	2727	None
WBP0514	Tuolumne	Summit	n/a	Castle Rock	*Pinus albicaulis*	40	2893	WPBR (1%)
WBP0515	Tuolumne	Summit	Emigrant	Castle Rock	*Pinus albicaulis*	12	2848	WPBR (5%)

Table 2. Whitebark pine attributes from Rapid Assessments, Sierra National Forest

DbaseID	Site name	Stand size	Clumps per hectare	Stems per hectare	Percent Vegetative	Percent Flowering	Percent Fruiting	Mortality by MPB	Mortality by WPBR	Total Mortality	Quality
WBP0500	Ebbetts Pass	> 5 acres	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WBP0501	Ebbetts Pass	> 5 acres	48	573	85	15	0	10	0	10	Good
WBP0502	Ebbetts Pass	> 5 acres	56	446	40	60	0	0	2	2	Good
WBP0503	Lookout Peak	> 5 acres	119	1432	12	85	3	0	1	1	Excellent
WBP0504	Lookout Peak	1-5 acres	25	153	18	80	2	0	3	3	Good
WBP0505	Lookout Peak	1-5 acres	20	143	60	40	0	0	0	0	Excellent
WBP0506	Sonora Pass	1-5 acres	64	509	50	35	15	10	0.2	10.2	Good
WBP0507	Sonora Pass	1-5 acres	31	183	98	2	0	25	0	25	Good
WBP0508	Sonora Pass	1-5 acres	103	1241	60	30	10	10	0	10	Good
WBP0509	Sonora Pass	1-5 acres	446	6685	82	15	3	2	0	2	Excellent
WBP0510	Sonora Pass	1-5 acres	56	334	87	10	3	2	0	2	Good
WBP0511	Sonora Pass	1-5 acres	85	424	90	10	0	0	0	0	Good
WBP0512	Sonora Pass	1-5 acres	16	159	98	2	0	0	0	0	Fair
WBP0513	Castle Rock	> 5 acres	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WBP0514	Castle Rock	1-5 acres	80	796	18	75	7	0	0	0	Excellent
WBP0515	Castle Rock	< 1 acre	57	453	65	35	0	0	5	5	Excellent