

Needles of five, keep it alive!

Please do not cut LIMBER PINES.

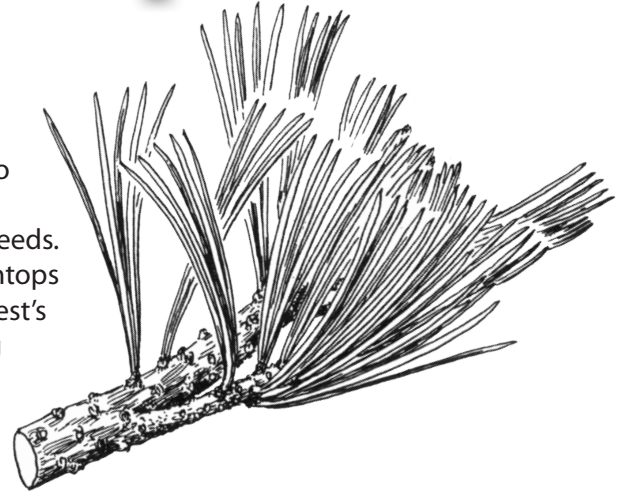
If a tree's needles grow in clusters of five, leave it to grow!

Limber pines live in many dry, rocky sites of the West, often in areas too harsh for any other tree. Many kinds of living things depend on these special pines; bears, small mammals, and birds eat their nutrient-rich seeds. People love limber pines for their beauty and strength. From mountaintops to prairie edges, limber pines offer shade and shelter in some of the West's most arid landscapes. They also trap snow in the high country, slowing spring runoff and helping provide water to the valleys in summer.

But limber pines are in trouble. Many stands of limber pine now contain more dead pines than living ones.

- Blister rust, a non-native fungus, weakens the trees, reduces cone production, and eventually causes death.
- Limber pines are also killed by bark beetles, and beetle epidemics may increase with recent climate warming.
- Wildfires may kill limber pines, although burned areas are good habitat for seedlings. Careful management of fire is essential.

So remember: If it has five, let's keep it alive!



For more information and to learn how you can help,
visit the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation at www.whitebarkfound.org.