

Hornaday Award Project Summary

Project Category: Forest Management

Ben Delatour Scout Ranch (BDSR) Reforestation

Plan: This was a tree planting project to replenish an area that has a 100% estimation of pine beetle kill in the ponderosa pine forest over the next ten years. Following the recommendations for the BDSR Conservation Committee, Rocky Mountain juniper, Douglas fir, and ponderosa pine seedlings were selected and secured from the Colorado State Forest Service. It was also determined that trees would have deer guards placed around them to help prevent deer from eating the new seedlings, and the guards would make it easier for Scouts during summer camp to locate the trees for watering. The area selected for planting included the Camp Jeffrey summer campsites of Ponderosa, Ridgeview, Spence and the Nuzum Shelter area. The plan was to plant trees in the areas around and near the actual campsites so that in a 20 to 30 year period the sites would have trees big enough to provide some shade.

Leadership: Before the project day, and after consulting with my project adviser, I went to BDSR to observe the area where we were planning to plant the trees. With a buddy, I set up a few areas on the map where we would plant. I then went to a Scout leader roundtable in the Cache la Poudre District to recruit Scouts from troops, and I contacted members of Venture Crew 12, to assist in the plant. On the plant day I served as the crew boss to direct the planting.

Result: The Project day was carried out by my crew – Crew 12 - and a few friends. We had over 500 trees to plant and one day in which to do it. During the project I led 8 Venturers and adults in planting all the trees in what turned out to be cold and snowy weather. This large task was overcome by splitting the group into teams of two and each team took different sections of Camp Jeffrey based on my plan. Through my leadership BDSR has a new forest that is starting to grow to replace the old that is expected to be destroyed soon by the pine beetle epidemic.

Date Completed: 04/23/11

Number of People Involved: 8

