

# Penny Pines Plantation Presentation



The Penny Pines program has been a significant part of the U.S. Forest Service reforestation program in California. The Penny Pines Program was initiated in California in 1941 under the sponsorship of the San Francisco Sportswomen's Association. In succeeding years, school children of the San Mateo County Schools made the first contribution of pennies to plant trees on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in California. Since then, over 1 million dollars have been donated by many different organizations and individuals. Combined donations and funds appropriated by Congress have helped purchase and plant more than 27 million seedlings and renewing 88,000 acres of National Forest land in California, including 20,414 acres on the Kern River Ranger District in the Sequoia National Forest.

Planting trees in areas affected by wildfires or other natural disturbances is critical to restoring and improving the health of our National Forests and helps reduce climate change impacts. Apart from the benefits of carbon storage, planting trees also helps conserve soil and water and enhance water quality, wildlife habitat, scenic values, and other ecosystem services.

In 1941, the price of a seedling was \$0.10. Thus the name Penny Pines. Back then a \$68.00 donation would buy 680 seedlings to plant one acre. Now with prices continuing to rise a \$68.00 donation will buy approx. 230 seedlings to cover 1 acre, which makes every contribution that more valuable.

Forest Fires can be catastrophic leaving our forests looking like a war zone and completely unrecognizable. Penny Pines funds help in wildfire recovery planting and allow us to quickly sow the seeds for the tree seedlings even as the fire suppression effort is going on. With funds readily available and a prompt response, we can have new trees in the ground a year or two after the fire is out.





## The Journey of our seedlings

The first step to start the reforestation project is to gather cones from seed zones that are the same zones as the proposed planting area. Then cones get transported to Placerville Nursery in Camino, California to begin processing. The Nursery dries the cones which allows the cones to open, thus releasing the all important seed. The cones are then transferred to a machine that tumbles the cones extracting the remaining seeds. The seeds are then inspected to ensure good, quality seeds. The approved seeds then will go to a cold storage room and are stored there until a sowing request is ordered. The seeds are sown a year ahead of actual planting into the ground for bare root seedlings or into containers for containerized stock. When it's time to deliver the seedlings, they are gathered (lifted) and boxed for shipping by refrigerated transportation to receiving forest to begin their reforestation project.



**Fact: The Placerville Nursery cold storage room is the only Forest Service seed bank in the state and holds 70,000 pounds of seeds representing every national forest in California.**







## McNally Planting 2008





## How the “Penny Pines” Plantation Program Works

You can participate in a practical conservation project by contributing to a Penny Pines Plantation. Briefly, the plan is this: Your organization contributes \$68 dollars or more as a part of the planting costs. Under cooperative agreement, the U.S. Forest Service will do the planting in the nearby Sequoia National Forest, using your donation together with Federal funds, and will provide the same protection from fires, insects, and disease given other forested areas.

The plantation will be marked with a Forest Service sign with a specific name. Plaques with the name of your organization or honoree will be placed on the sign. For each \$68 dollars contribution, you will receive a Penny Pines Certificate from the Forest Supervisor, who will advise you of the location of the plantation at your request.

Contributions normally come from a group, but they are accepted from individuals as well. Payments, which may be sent at any time during the year, will be used during the next spring planting season. Contributions may be made from year to year under the original agreement, but should be in multiples of \$68 dollars. Also groups or individuals can make a memorial plantation contribution as well.



*This is the end result of planting and the beginning of our forests future*



*A New Beginning*



