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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Greater Yellowstone Whitebark Pine Committee Receives National Award From the Arbor Day Foundation

Nebraska City, Neb. (April 24, 2012) – The Greater Yellowstone Whitebark Pine Committee is the recipient of a 2012 Arbor Day Award in honor of its outstanding contribution to tree planting, conservation and stewardship, the Arbor Day Foundation announced today.

The Montana, Wyoming and Idaho-based Greater Yellowstone Whitebark Pine Committee is one of 16 individuals and organizations being recognized by the Foundation at the annual Arbor Day Awards. The ceremony will be held at Lied Lodge & Conference Center, located at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, Nebraska, on Saturday, April 28.

The Greater Yellowstone Whitebark Pine Committee will receive a Forest Lands Leadership Award in honor of its leadership in advancing sustainable forestry efforts on public forestland.

Whitebark pine trees are critical to the ecosystem of the Greater Yellowstone Area, but the species faces several threats, including white pine blister rust, increasing mountain pine beetle outbreaks and competition from other forest species. The Greater Yellowstone Whitebark Pine Committee formed in 2000 as a subcommittee of the federal Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee to address these threats. Whitebark pine was recently determined to be warranted for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The interagency Committee released a comprehensive Whitebark Pine Strategy to guide protection and restoration in 2011. The Strategy continues a robust monitoring program; has planted hundreds of acres in rust resistant whitebark pine and has collected over two million seeds for future planting.

“This innovative, multi-agency partnership is a true collaboration around a high-stakes challenge,” said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Because of the work of the Greater Yellowstone Whitebark Pine Committee, some of most precious forestland in the western United States will be preserved for the next generation.”

Since 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the inspiring and life-changing work of leading environmental stewards and tree planters through the annual Arbor Day Awards.

Award winners from previous years include the late Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, veteran newsman Bill Kurtis, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Mary Kay, Inc. This year, in addition to honoring Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley with a Vision Award, A Legacy of Partnership Award will be presented to the United States Forest Service.

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About the Arbor Day Foundation: The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit conservation and education organization of one million members, with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. More information on the Foundation and its programs can be found at arborday.org, or by visiting us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or our [blog](#).