



**Red squirrels** create many caches of whitebark pine cones to stockpile a food source.

# Lifecycle of a whitebark pine tree

A crucial link in high-elevation Rocky Mountain food chain



**Clark's Nutcracker** takes seeds from whitebark pine and caches them underground for spring feeding to chicks.



**Proper conditions** for seedling survival may occur decades apart.



**Grizzly bears** find red squirrel caches, which are a vital source of protein.

Seed middens can supply several thousand calories, referred to as "Big Mac equivalents."



**Blister rust and beetle infestation** have killed more than 90 percent of whitebark pine groves.

**Whitebark pine saplings** may take up to **80 years** to become mature trees capable of producing cones.

