IETIC Russell H. Hudson Gene Archive Update
June 1, 2010

I’m pleased to report that the first grafts were recently planted at the IETIC Russell H. Hudson Gene Archive located on the University of Idaho Experimental Forest. We planted 785 western larch grafts at the site last week with help from the University of Idaho Forest Research Nursery crew. These grafts represent selections from the best families planted in the IETIC Phase I long-term progeny tests planted in Washington, Idaho, and Montana in 1981 and 1983.

Recognizing the tremendous value of our tested genetic material, the IETIC Steering Committee set aside funds to create the gene archive in October 2006. We plan to plant grafts from top performing families in IETIC Douglas-fir, western larch, ponderosa pine, and lodgepole pine progeny tests at this site. Once established, the archive will allow easy access to our best genetic material for the future and provide opportunities for tree breeding studies.

The grafts recently planted were from 181 selections that we grafted in 2009. The trees were grown for one year in the nursery after grafting. In 2010, we made an additional 509 western larch grafts that will be planted at the Hudson site either this fall or next spring.

I’ve included a photographic summary of our progress on this important project. I hope you enjoy these photos and will distribute this summary to others in your organization who may be interested in this work.

Figure 1. The IETIC Steering Committee examining the site in October 2007. Special thanks to Ross Appelgren (center left wearing the hard hat) for locating the site and arranging for its use by IETIC.
Figure 2. The site was logged in 2007 and stumps were removed by an excavator. Then the slash was piled and later burned. Slash that did not burn well was removed from the site.

Figure 3. The next step was to establish a grid on the site for planting. Trees will be planted at a spacing of 8 by 16 feet. The blue flags indicate planting locations.
Figure 4. Western larch grafts in the greenhouse in October 2009. Notice the white paint on the stem of the grafts that marks the graft union.

Figure 5. Don Reagan, UI Forest Research Nursery, planting the first tree on May 24, 2010.
Figure 6. We used an eight inch auger to dig holes for the one-gallon tall pots used for the grafts.

Figure 7. A newly planted western larch. Notice the aluminum ID tag to the left of the graft.

Figure 8. Three planters working up the row. The weather during planting was perfect with a good rain one day after planting was completed.

Figure 9. A row of newly planted western larch grafts. Planting spots were spot-sprayed courtesy of Western Forest Systems.
Figure 10. Special thanks to the planting crew supplied by the UI Forest Research Nursery. Back row from left to right: Don Regan, Alan Tedrow. Front Row from left to right: Kea Woodruff, Jacy Woodruff, Grant Lee, and Noah Krier.

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