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Poised for Picking

B.I.A. forester Paul Brna had the sky for a companion while he picked cones by the bushel in the reservation's first pine and fir cone harvest.

CDS Photo

First cone harvest aims for better seedling survival

by Cynthia Stowell

A "crash program" of cone gathering on the reservation has sent half a dozen B.I.A. foresters and a three-man contract crew clambering to the tops of ponder-

osa pines and Douglas firs in recent weeks in a rush to capture the cones before they open up.

Cones must be gathered within 15-20 days after they ripen, said Bureau forester Bill Donaghu, who added that there has also been a pressure to take advantage of this "excellent" seeding year, which occurs only once in seven years for ponderosas.

The result of the all-out effort has been the collection of 79,000 ponderosa pine cones and 60,000 Douglas fir cones to replenish the dwindling supply of seeds for the Bureau's reforestation program.

This is the first year that cones have been gathered from the reservation. Previously seed was purchased from the U.S. Forest Service and the precise origin of the seed was not known. Although this year's \$16,000 program makes the seed more

expensive, there should be a gain in productivity, said Donaghu.

Knowing "at least one parent" and the exact habitat of the seed can mean a 10-15 percent improvement in the survival and growth of seedlings, he said.

During the past six months, 700 select ponderosa pines were identified and tagged by Bureau employees, whose selection criteria were rapid height and diameter growth, small limbs, no forking or abnormal branch angles, and a large distance between whorls.

Of those selected, only 231 trees (29,000 cones) were actually collected because trees do not bear cones every year. The balance of pine cones came from trees chosen on site.

Under a \$45 per tree contract with Barnes Tree Improvement Company, the Bureau is aiming for the collection of 200 Douglas fir trees, or approximately 140,

000 cones. Noble fir cones have been picked only incidentally since the Bureau has a good backlog of that species.

Not every year will require a "crash program," noted Donaghu. Once the seed supply is

built up, "maintenance" will be the name of the game. Future years should go more smoothly now that suitable climbers have

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All-Indian World's Fair

The All-Indian Hall of Fame Association from Chinle, Arizona is trying something new by sponsoring an Annual All-Indian World's Fair at the Arizona State Fairgrounds in Phoenix, Arizona on April 23-29, 1979.

The week-long activities will include: a World's Fair parade, a carnival, championship rodeo, arts and crafts exhibit and sale, powwow competition, Miss Indian USA Pageant & Show, women and men's sports tournaments, conferences and convention, and tribal displays.

The purpose of the All-Indian world's fair is to honor all tribes and Indians throughout the land.

The Hall of Fame Association formed in 1976 with the goal of developing an All-Indian Heritage and Cultural Center, a "living memorial to all tribal cultures."

If interested in obtaining more information about the fair write to: the All-Indian Hall of Fame Association, PO Box 306, Chinle, Arizona, 86503. Watch Spilyay Tymoo for more details.

Weather

SEPT.	HI	LOW	PRECIP.
7	70	52	.01
8	66	40	
9	69	54	.09
10	65	44	.04
11	69	44	.01
12	77	38	
13	58	50	.05
14	75	42	.01
15	66	47	
16	70	36	
	58	40	
18	62	35	
19	72	31	