

Ag & Environmental Services Newsletter

August 2023



Whitebark and Limber Pine

In Alberta, there are only two species of trees that are endangered. The Whitebark and Limber Pine. Whitebark pine is a keystone species of high elevation ecosystems, playing a very important role in its habitat. These species are considered endangered because they grow extremely slow. Meaning they don't begin to produce cones until up to age 50! Both Limber and Whitebark pine trees rely on Clark's Nutcracker, a bird, for reproduction as a result of coevolution.

These pines are important to their ecosystems by providing habitat and value for wildlife and humans, including:

- Scenic value
- Slope stabilization
- Food source for birds
- Habitat for small mammals and bears
- Headwater streamflow control
- Subalpine tree island formation



Limber Pine (left) and Whitebark Pine (right).
Photos from Government of Alberta.

WEED WARRIORS

**Every Wednesday morning,
9:00AM-12:00PM, throughout
June, July, and August.**

We are seeking *volunteers* of all ages to help us in the removal (hand pulling) of invasive plants in Crowsnest Pass. *No experience is needed, and drop-ins are welcome.* Please bring friends, family, water, and a snack. Dress appropriately for the weather conditions. We will provide gloves.

August dates and locations:

August 2: Crowsnest River (Coleman) – 81 St & 14 Ave, Coleman

August 9: Nez Perce Creek – Flumerfelt Park, 20 Ave & 76 St, Coleman

August 16: Crowsnest River (Hillcrest) – Hillcrest Conservation Lease Trout Unlimited Canada, 21766-12 Ave, Hillcrest

August 23: Star Creek – 16 Ave & 54 St, Coleman

August 30: Flumerfelt Park – Flumerfelt Park, 20 Ave & 76 St, Coleman



Since the Limber and Whitebark Pines don't reproduce until a much later stage in their life, it is important to identify their threats and how to prevent their decrease in population size. Major threats to species population include:

1. White Pine Blister Rust
2. Mountain Pine Beetle
3. Land Use
4. Wildfire Suppression and Succession
5. Climate Change

Recovery and conservation plans have been implemented at the federal level as well as the provincial level in Alberta and BC. Timber harvest guidelines have been increased, and detailed reforestation tactics are being implemented to eventually increase species population.

Use the following sources for more information on Whitebark and Limber pine trees and their recovery:

[Whitebark and Limber Pine Recovery](#)

[Alberta Whitebark and Limber Pine Recovery Plan](#)

Resource Management

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

The Agriculture and Environmental Services department has recently made changes to their website! For more information on the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership check the Resource Management tab. Here you will find information on programs and partnerships supporting agriculture and the environment.

[Agriculture and Environmental Services – Resource Management](#)

NOXIOUS WEED OF THE MONTH LEAFY SPURGE

Small yellowish green flowers in clusters, flowers lack petals and are supported by 2 leafy bracts; the leaves and stems contain a white milky sap.



PROHIBITED NOXIOUS WEED OF THE MONTH SULPHUR CINQUEFOIL

Pale yellow flowers with 5 deeply notched petals; leaves are palmately compound with 5-7 toothed leaflets, the underside being green; hairs are perpendicular to stem and leafstalks.

