

MD OF RANCHLAND

AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME IN ALBERTA

White-nose Syndrome (WNS) is a fungal disease discovered in New York in 2006 that affects hibernating bats in North America. The fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, infects bats during their winter hibernation when they reduce their metabolic rate and lower their body temperature to conserve energy. Bats affected by WNS arouse from hibernation more easily, depleting their fat reserves and leading to starvation before spring arrives. The visible signs of WNS include white fungal growth on infected bats' muzzles and wings. The fungus spreads through physical contact between bats and from contaminated cave surfaces. Some bat populations have declined by 90%.

This spring, WNS, was detected at a few locations in southeastern Alberta and is expected to spread. Although, we cannot prevent or eradicate this fungus, we can support the bat populations by protecting their key habitats. Ensuring bats continue to have places to roost, hibernate and forage can help populations recover after initial declines. In Alberta, it is illegal to enter caves where bats are hibernating between September 1 and April 30 and caution should be taken to avoid spreading WNS if entering caves outside of those dates. If you encounter a bat flying in winter, or a dead bat in winter or spring with signs of WNS, please contact your local fish and wildlife office.

If interested in discussing further, please contact Erika at ag3@ranchland66.com or 403-646-3131.

Source(s): 1) <https://www.alberta.ca/white-nose-syndrome>
2) <https://www.nps.gov/articles/what-is-white-nose-syndrome.htm>

GRANT TO APPLY FOR

<https://www.alberta.ca/water-program>

Water Program

The Water Program supports agricultural water management by helping primary producers adopt agriculture water better management practices and priority actions. This supports better management of risks to water quality and supplies, adaptation to climate variability and the efficient use of water resources.

Contact Erika at 403-646-3131 or ag3@ranchland66.com with any questions.



WEED TO WATCH

Orange Hawkweed

Hieracium aurantiacum

ID characteristics: Has basal leaves that are oblong/lance shaped to elliptic. An erect, usually leafless stem or may have 1 or 2 reduced leaves. Both the stem and leaves are hairy. Ray flowers are red-orange with several heads in a compact corymb.



Source: <https://abinvasives.ca/factsheet/hawkweed-orange/>

GRAZING IN LIMBER PINE

~ Field Days ~

JUNE 12TH - 1:30-4:30 P.M. @ BEAUVAIS AREA
JULY 16TH - 9:00-NOON @ WALDRON RANCH

Join limber pine specialist Jodie Krakowski to explore options for managing cattle grazing in limber pine stands. Let's work together to try and save this iconic but endangered species.

- LEARN ABOUT THREATS FACING THESE TREES
- HEAR ABOUT THE IMPORTANT ROLE LIMBER PINES PLAY AS A KEYSTONE SPECIES
- EXPLORE ACTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO REDUCE TREE MORTALITY & PROMOTE REGROWTH

To register, please email: tporter@watertonbiosphere.com
Details and maps provided to registrants

Find us online!

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If you would like to contribute to this bulletin by writing an article, submitting a photo to be featured, recommending an organization, noxious weed, or grant, or any other suggestions, please send an email to ag3@ranchland66.com with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and I look forward to your feedback!



ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

Cows and Fish

<https://cowsandfish.org/>

The Cows and Fish Organization, also known as The Riparian Management Society, is a non-profit society striving to foster a better understanding of how improvements in grazing and other management of riparian areas can enhance landscape health and productivity, for the benefit of landowners, agricultural producers, communities and others who use and value riparian areas.

