

MD OF RANCHLAND

AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



THE SILENT DECLINE OF LIMBER PINE

When it comes to species at risk, plants don't seem to get as much attention, but their conservation is just as important. Limber Pine (aka *Pinus flexilis*) is an endangered tree species in Alberta, and has been declining rapidly.

These alpine trees take 40-50 years to reach maturity, and live for 1000+ years. Alberta's oldest tree is a Limber Pine in the Crowsnest Pass, aged around 1150-1450. As a keystone species, it fills an important role for the survival of its entire ecosystem.

A number of threats endanger this species. White Pine Blister Rust is a deadly invasive fungus. The only recovery option is to use seeds from trees with natural resistance in restoration. Mountain Pine Beetle is another increasingly spreading threat. The recovery option is to put pheromones on the few Blister Rust resistant trees found, repelling the beetles. Wildfire suppression also threatens Limber Pine. It likes open habitat, and fire suppression has led to dense stands of shade tolerant trees. Prescribed burns have been used in recovery.

If you find a Limber Pine, you can help by simply letting us know. Waterton Biosphere Reserve has funding to work with landowners and help manage species at risk. For more, contact Erin at 403-646-3131 or erin@ranchland66.com.

GRANT TO APPLY FOR

<https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/EGH>

Canadian Agricultural Partnership Efficient Grain Handling Program

Helps producers reduce overall energy use on their operations. For example, funds energy efficient equipment. Goal to reduce negative environmental impacts & enhance sustainable production. Deadline to apply is November 30. If interested, contact Erin at 403-646-3131 or erin@ranchland66.com.



WEED TO WATCH

Lesser Burdock

Arctium minus

ID characteristics: rosette of large, heart-shaped leaves with wavy margins, thick stems, purple-tinged flowers with long spines that become burs with maturity.



Maureen Vadnais, 2010.

ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN (EFP) WORKSHOP

MD OF WILLOW CREEK OFFICE
NOVEMBER 30, 2022

WORKSHOP DETAILS:

- Workshop will begin at 9:00am and wrap-up around 3:00pm
- Lunch will be provided
- Please bring laptop or tablet if you have one
- Please bring information on your water sources & water bodies
- If you are renewing your EFP and you have your old binder, please bring it as this can be helpful

Please register before November 23, 2022

TO REGISTER VISIT:

<https://www.foothillsforage.com/efp2022>



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<https://mdranchland.ca/>

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 erin@ranchland66.com with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and I look forward to your feedback!

ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

Nature Conservancy of Canada

www.natureconservancy.ca



NCC works to deliver large-scale, permanent land conservation. They partner with individuals, corporations, foundations, Indigenous communities, other non-profit organizations, and governments to protect the natural areas that sustain Canada's plants and wildlife. Properties are secured mainly through donation, purchase, or conservation agreements, and then managed for the long term. Since 1962, NCC has contributed to the conservation of more than 15 million hectares. For more information, visit the website above.

