



GREATER YELLOWSTONE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Participating Agencies

US Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Grand Teton National Park

John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
Memorial Parkway

Yellowstone National Park

US Fish & Wildlife Service

National Elk Refuge

Red Rock Lakes

National Wildlife Refuge

Bureau of Land Management

US Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Beaverhead-Deerlodge
National Forest

Bridger-Teton National Forest

Caribou-Targhee National Forest

Custer National Forest

Gallatin National Forest

Shoshone National Forest

Chair

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Interagency News Release

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Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee Signs Whitebark Pine Agreement and Welcomes BLM to the Committee

Jackson, WY – Federal land managers in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) signed an interagency agreement on April 17, 2012 to coordinate inventory, monitoring, and management of whitebark pine and explore new collaborative projects to help protect and restore the species throughout the region.

Whitebark pine is a critical component of high elevation ecosystems and is currently threatened by both insects and diseases. Impacts from non-native white pine blister rust and native mountain pine beetle, combined with effects of altered temperature patterns on beetle population dynamics, have resulted in significant loss of whitebark pine in the GYA.

“We recognize the need to address this issue through interagency collaboration,” said Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) Chair Steve Kallin. “Actions taken on any jurisdiction affect the long-term status of this important species. It is important for all land managers to work together to promote the long-term viability and function of whitebark pine throughout the GYA.”

In May 2011, the National Park Service, US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service approved the *Whitebark Pine Strategy for the Greater Yellowstone Area*. The Strategy establishes management objectives, sets priorities, and describes coordination efforts for the agencies that manage federal lands in the GYA. The agreement signed Tuesday documents interagency support of a seed orchard for whitebark pine propagation and continued support of a long-term monitoring program; it also includes the Bureau of Land Management. The Strategy is available online at <http://www.fedgycc.org/WhitebarkPineOverview.htm>.

The GYCC formally welcomed the Bureau of Land Management as a member of the committee during its spring meeting in Jackson, Wyoming. Executives of the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) affirming their desire to work cooperatively in the management of core federal lands within the GYA.

The GYCC was established in the 1960’s among the National Parks and National Forests of the GYA, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service joined in 2000. The BLM manages nearly 1.6 million acres of land in the GYA. “The GYCC members look forward to working with BLM managers at the regional level. We share many issues, and will all benefit from closer coordination,” said Kallin.



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ABOUT THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE COORDINATING COMMITTEE: The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) includes federal land managers from national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges and Bureau of Land Management lands across the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA): the largest, essentially intact natural area in the lower 48 states. Together, these agencies manage 15 million acres of federal land. The committee was formed to pursue opportunities of mutual cooperation and coordination in the management of core federal lands within the GYA. Participating federal land managers administer three national parks (Yellowstone, Grand Teton & John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway), two national wildlife refuges (National Elk Refuge, Red Rock Lakes), six national forests (Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, Shoshone, Gallatin, Beaverhead-Deerlodge, & Custer), and BLM lands in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

Information about the GYCC and links to member agency websites are available at:

<http://www.fedgycc.org/>

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