

Attachment 1: NEPA Requirements and Collection Protocols

The appropriate level of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, including the proportion of standing crop permitted for harvest is required prior to issuance of seed collection permits. Mitigation measures, in the form of Special Provisions, may be attached to any Bureau vegetative permit or contract. These stipulations should address and mitigate any issues identified through the NEPA process. If issues cannot be mitigated to an acceptable level through stipulations, then the permit or contract should not be issued.

Collection of seed from Federally listed threatened and endangered species and candidate species must be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Ecological Services Office, and the Wyoming State Office Threatened and Endangered Species Program Lead. Plants on the BLM State Sensitive Species List require consultation between the BLM Authorizing Officer and the Wyoming State Office Threatened and Endangered Species Program Lead. Collection of seed from plants on the Wyoming BLM Sensitive Species list will be allowed for scientific or research purposes, with the exception of whitebark and limber pine. For these two species, seeds may be collected for restoration planting purposes as well as for scientific and research needs as per Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. WY-2011-003.

The BLM Seeds of Success (SOS) Program has an established protocol for BLM collection of seeds on Bureau lands. For collections undertaken under this program, the protocols for this program need to be followed and coordinated with the Wyoming State Office Botanist.

No commercial seed harvest or collection will be permitted within designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The Interim Management Policy states that no commercial harvest of vegetation will be allowed. The Interim Management Policy does make allowances for issuing permits for seed collection for personal use under certain circumstances, including strict adherence to the non-impairment criteria. Please refer to the Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review (H-8550-1) for further direction.

Only hand collection of seed will be permitted unless motorized mechanical harvest is analyzed in the supporting NEPA documentation and specified in the Special Provisions section of the permit. Any off-road travel restrictions for the collection area will be complied with. Seed harvest will be permitted for specific areas and acreages with an attached map specifying the area.

One original permittee signed copy of the permit with the species permitted, Special Provisions, and collection area map will be maintained with the BLM Field Office files. The second original copy, with all the required attachments and signatures, must be in the possession of the permittee/collector/harvester while collection is taking place and the seed is being transported.

Permittees are required to keep a seed collection log listing materials collected by species, amounts and location. Minimum information needed is: (1) date of collection, (2) location of collection, (3) specie(s) collected, (4) amount in pounds collected, and (5) permit number.