



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office

P.O. Box 1828

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009-1828



IN REPLY REFER TO:

6843 (930) P

5860 (930)

October 15, 2010

EMS TRANSMISSION: October 21, 2010
Instruction Memorandum No. WY-2011-003
Expires: 09/30/2012

To: District Managers

From: State Director

Subject: Management Guidelines for Whitebark and Limber Pine on the Wyoming Bureau of Land Management Sensitive Species List.

Program Areas: Forestry, Threatened and Endangered Species

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) establishes guidelines for the management of whitebark and limber pine on Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands.

Background: Both the whitebark and limber pine are five needle pine species that are being severely impacted by mountain pine beetle infestations, white pine blister rust infections and by climate change. On July 20, 2010, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a positive 90-day finding on a petition to list the whitebark pine as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and to designate critical habitat. The recently updated Wyoming BLM Special Status Species list (IM No. WY-2010-027) included both of these species. The primary criterion for their inclusion was information that these species are undergoing a downward trend such that species' viability or a distinct population segment of the species is at risk, in accordance with BLM Manual 6840.

There are inherent differences in managing such geographically wide-spread tree species compared with the manner in which BLM traditionally manages Special Status Species. The location of Wyoming BLM's five needle pine ecosystems provides an opportunity to manage these woodlands to restore or maintain them on the landscape and still meet multiple resource objectives. Recently, ecologists have identified a suite of effective management strategies for maintaining and restoring these species on the landscape.

Policy/Action: In cases where active management of vegetative resources involves, or may impact, the whitebark or limber pines, management guidelines in Attachment 1 should be followed (Whitebark and Limber Pine (Five Needle Pine) Management Guidelines for Wyoming BLM).

Time Frame: This IM is effective upon issuance.

Budget Impact: There are no anticipated budgetary impacts.

Coordination: This IM has been coordinated with the Districts, the BLM Idaho and Montana State Offices, the Rocky Mountain Research Station (Fort Collins, Colorado, and Missoula, Montana) and several academic specialists in silviculture and ecology.

Contact: Questions regarding this IM should be directed to Bob Means (307) 775-6287, Forestry Program Lead; or Tyler Abbott (307) 775-6090, Threatened and Endangered Species Program Lead.

Signed by:
Donald A. Simpson
State Director

Authenticated by:
Pamela D. Hernandez
Secretary, Division of Support Services

2 Attachments:

- 1 - Whitebark and Limber Pine (Five Needle Pine) Management Guidelines for Wyoming BLM (10 p)
- 2 - Whitebark Pine and Limber Pine Identification (1 p)

Distribution

Director (200) Room 3326, MIB	1 w/atch.
CF	1 w/atch.