

# Uncompahgre Plateau Project Native Plant Program

## 2006 Accomplishments

The objective of the Uncompahgre Plateau (UP) Native Plant Program is the development of site-adapted native plant materials for use in the restoration of native plant communities in the Colorado Plateau regional area. The primary elements of the program are 1) the production of native plant materials; 2) basic and applied research on native species; and 3) training and dissemination of information. In 2006, we have made significant progress in each of these areas.

The program's main area of work is the collection and development of native seed through studies and seed increase fields. We have taken an aggressive approach to this portion of our program because site-adapted native seed is not currently available for the Colorado Plateau area. There are currently over 50 species within the program ranging from the salt desert shrub to aspen elevations. In the 2006, we expanded our collections to include populations of 15 species from eastern Utah. This year, we have 29 species in seed increase fields ranging from one-tenth to 60-acre fields. Seed was produced and harvested from nearly all species. Thirty species are currently in seed production studies. All plantings were maintained and data collected at seasonal periods. Seed from all study plots was collected and evaluated to determine yields and seed quality.

Three new research projects have been initiated in 2006. Species Adaptability Studies are being undertaken for 13 grasses at four locations in Colorado and Utah to ensure that the most vigorous populations are promoted for commercial production. Sagebrush Production Studies are being conducted at two study sites to determine if seed production of Wyoming and mountain sagebrush can be enhanced by removing competition. Long-term data sets of Species Selection Trials conducted by Utah DWR and the USFS have been compiled for comparative analysis.

In keeping with our goal of disseminating information on restoration techniques, the program co-sponsored a Plant Community Restoration Workshop with the Utah DWR in Ephraim, Utah with 70 participants from 7 western states. This workshop was an excellent opportunity to bring together land managers, community members and scientists to share knowledge on our regional ecosystems.



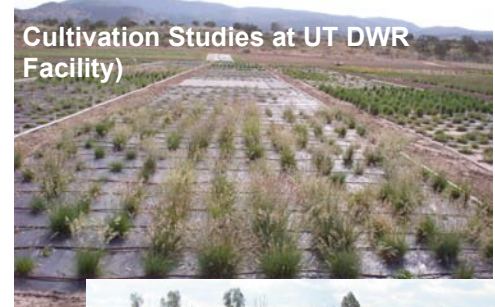
Field tour during the Restoration Workshop



Penstemon in bloom



Crew planting Species Adaptability Studies at USU Facility



Cultivation Studies at UT DWR Facility)



UP Staff tours BYU Facility

**Year Awarded:** 2004 & 2005

**Project completion:** 2011

**Report number:** 3 of 5

**Expenditures:**

- FY06 USFS funding received: \$0
- FY05 USFS expended in 2006: \$150,000
- USFS funds remaining: \$125,000
- Other FY06 funding received: \$192,500
- Other FY06 funding expended: \$400,000

**Partners/Contractors/Coop:** USFS Region 2 & 4, USDI BLM CO and UT State Offices, CO DOW and UT DWR, Public Lands Partnership, CSU, BYU, USU, Snow College, Meeker Plant Materials Center, USFS Lucky Peak Nursery, Lone Peak Nursery, The Nature Conservancy and commercial / private growers.

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