

Sierra Nevada Native Grass Seed Zone Study

Plumas, Tahoe, Inyo, Eldorado and Sierra National Forests

2006 Accomplishments

The Sierra Nevada Native Grass Seed Zone Study was initiated in 2003 to determine the seed zone for three native grasses, Blue Wild Rye (*Elymus glaucus*), Squirreltail Grass (*Elymus elymoides*) and California Brome (*Bromus carinatus*) in 15 field plots on 5 different National Forests in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. Seed zones identify the areas that seeds can be collected that ensure optimal growth and preserve genetic diversity.

In 2003 the seed was collected for the study, grown into grass plugs in 2004 and planted in the fall of 2004 and spring of 2005. Data loggers were installed in 2005 to measure air and soil temperature at all field plots. In 2005 survival data were collected at all field plots and in west side low and Inyo NF field plots, leaf length, culm height and number and damage data were collected. In 2006, leaf length, culm height and number and damage data were collected in all plots using BLM funding.

Jay Kitzmiller, retired Pacific Southwest Regional Geneticist, analyzed the preliminary data from 2005 and is completing the Plumas Native Grass Seed Zone Study for publication using NPM funding. Jay Kitzmiller and Linnea Hanson presented their preliminary data at the Pacific Southwest Regional Botany meeting in March, 2006 and the California Native Grassland Association meeting in May, 2006.



Batterson field plot data collection, Sierra National Forest



Rose field plot data collection, Plumas National Forest.



Year Awarded: FY04 and FY06

Project completion: FY09

Expenditures:

FY06 funding: \$ 33,369.00

Remaining: \$53,631.00

BLM funding: \$27,687.00

Partners:

California State Office of the
Bureau of Land Management

California Native Grassland
Association

For more information about the
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Zone Study, contact:

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