

Chippewa Native Grass Planting

2006 Accomplishments

Chippewa Native Grass Planting was an effort to collect and purchase native grass seeds and to plant these seeds with appropriate microorganisms that are critical to the establishment and long term survival of almost all native plant species. Two methods were explored for seed delivery, the preparation and planting of seed balls, (marble sized capsules of clay containing seed and mycorrhizae) and direct planting of seed. The direct seed plantings were usually made onto areas that contained microorganism infused native plants. If there were insufficient microorganisms, topsoil was collected from areas with healthy mycorrhizal populations and dispersed with the seed mix. Seed balls and the use of fungi in native species plantings are very helpful methods to ensure native seed establishment. Other efforts are underway to enhance and expand the concepts. A total of 400 pounds of native seed was purchased and other project funds provided an additional 350 pounds. All of this seed was seeded onto sites that had been evaluated for mycorrhizal populations, raked and prepared. Because we conducted a fall and early winter planting, we were able to collect local native seed near the planting site to add to the plantings. A local Science Center collected 30.9 pounds of native plant seed from many unique species. Some went to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for wetland roadside plantings and the rest will be mixed into seed balls.



Seed ball mixture of seed, mycorrhizae & white clay. Photo Dave Upgren, USFS

Year Awarded: 2006

Project completion: 2006

Report number: 1 of 2

Expenditures:

FY06 funding \$10,000,
Expended: \$10,000; Balance \$0

Partners/Contractor/Coop: Several
(See description for Partners)

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Finished red clay seed balls: Native grass seed, clay, mycorrhizae and water. Photo by Stan Kot, USFS



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