

Enhanced Native Grass Production

2006 Accomplishments

Restoring native prairie vegetation requires more than the presence of tall grasses. Restoration of proper habitat structure requires the presence of many species of medium- and short-stature native grasses and sedges, including prairie dropseed, little bluestem, vanilla grass, prairie oval sedge, and chairmaker's rush. The presence of these species in restored prairie habitats is important for enhancing plant species diversity, providing a diversity of food plants for native insects, and correct habitat structure for grassland birds. Midewin's seed production beds already produce 30-50 lbs of seed from twenty species of medium- and short-stature native grasses and sedges, but more seed is needed.

During 2006, this award enabled Midewin to purchase 2725 plugs of 14 species; over 50% of these plugs were installed in summer 2006. The remaining plugs will be planted during 2007. Additional plugs and seeds for planting seed production beds will be delivered/ purchased in 2007, allowing further expansion of seed production for 15-25 species of grasses and sedges. These plantings are expected to gradually double the amount of seed produced by these grasses and sedges over the next 2-5 years.



Seasonal crew members harvest dropseed from established seed production beds on Midewin.

Year Awarded: 2006

Project completion: 2007

Report number: 1 of 2

Expenditures:

- FY06 funding \$46,300, expend/obligate \$8,054 in 2006; \$38,246 remaining for 2007 purchases

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Volunteers plant prairie dropseed plugs for future seed production on Midewin (photos by Julie Sacco)



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