Developing Prairie Clover (*Dalea* spp.) for Use in Burn Rehab Seed Mixtures in Southwestern Pinyon/Juniper Communities

2007 Accomplishments

Whiteflower prairie clover seedling in a Ray Leach Super Cell.

The purpose of this project is to test different species of prairie clover that establish naturally after burns. These species would be used as burn rehab species in the pinyon/juniper zone in the Southwest and have potential for commercial seed production. The two species selected were foxtail prairie clover (*Dalea leporina*), which is in its second year of evaluation and whiteflower prairie clover (*Dalea albiflora*), which is in its first year of evaluation. The goal is to develop legume releases that will be requested by land managers and can be produced economically by commercial growers.

Forage analysis of foxtail prairie clover shows it to have a Relative Feed Value that is higher than alfalfa.

A foxtail prairie clover seed field was established by direct seeding in 2007. Based on the size and vigor of the plants, we are expecting to harvest large quantities of seed. After harvesting and cleaning the 2007 crop, it will be appropriate to begin the paperwork to release this species as a source-identified germplasm release.

Although scheduled as a two year project, the remaining funds will be expended in year three with the field evaluation of whiteflower prairie clover.

Foxtail prairie clover seed production field on August 22, 2007.

Year Awarded: 2006
Project completion: 2007
Report number: 2 of 2
Expenditures:

- funding $25,329
- FY06 expend. $7,857
- FY07 expend. $8,556
- Balance remaining $8,916

Cooperator: NRCS Plant Materials Center, Los Lunas New Mexico

Contact: Ralph D. Pope (505) 388-8420

Gila National Forest
3005 E. Camino del Bosque
Silver City, NM 88061