

Native Grass Seed Collection and Propagation for Habitat Restoration in Idaho

FY2007 Accomplishments

The Boise National Forest is actively developing a native plant program to support ongoing habitat restoration efforts, combat the spread of noxious weeds, and aid in restoration of natural fire regime.

Original Proposal: FY07 funding was received for native grass seed collection within 3 watersheds (Boise, Salmon, and Payette), and subsequent cleaning and processing, and seed increase (1 acre) at the Lucky Peak Nursery. This is a 4 year project, and it is anticipated that seed should be ready for outplanting by 2010, and available for use by area land management agencies.

Results: In order to consolidate efforts and maximize efficiency, personnel and funding, collecting efforts for this project were combined with those for the “Restoration of Upland & Riparian Vegetation for Becker Vegetation Management Project”. The Becker restoration efforts have targeted the Crooked River 5th HUC in the Boise River watershed for seed collection.

18 seed collection plots were established in the Crooked River 5th HUC by the Idaho Conservation Data Center with the assistance of Forest personnel. An additional 3 seed collection plots were established in the Grandjean area in the Payette River watershed. In 2007, a total of 62 lbs of unprocessed seed was collected from 22 species (includes grasses & forbs).

The seed will be cleaned and processed at the Lucky Peak Nursery Fall 07/Winter 08. Species chosen to increase will be determined by the amount and quality of the seed available after cleaning and testing.



Native grass seed collection near Grandjean.

Year Awarded: FY2007

Project completion: Expected 2010

Report number: 1 of 4

Expenditures:

- FY07 funding: \$18,000
- Expend: \$4,800 (planning/seed collection) + \$13,200 (Nursery –native seed cleaning, storage, field planting/harvest)
- Remaining: \$0

Partners/Contractors/Coop:
Idaho CDC Center
IDFG Volunteers
Lucky Peak Nursery



Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*).



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