

Sierra Nevada Native Grass Seed Zone Study

2007 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 the Plumas, Tahoe, Inyo, Eldorado, and Sierra National Forests in the Sierra Nevada Mountains to provide 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. In 2005, data loggers were installed to measure air and soil temperature at all field plots, and 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. In 2007, data was collected in all plots.

Dr. Jay Kitzmiller, retired Pacific Southwest Regional Geneticist, analyzed the preliminary data from 2005 and submitted the Plumas NF Native Grass Seed Zone Study for publication. Jay Kitzmiller and Linnea Hanson presented preliminary data at the Pacific Southwest Regional Botany meeting in February 2006 and at the California Native Grassland Association meeting in May 2006.



Wells field plot data collection, Inyo National Forest

Year Awarded: 2004, 2006 and 2007

Project completion: 2008

Expenditures:

FY06 funding: \$28,000

FY07 funding: \$35,000

BLM funding: \$8,000

Partners: BLM, California Native Grassland Association

Linnea Hanson and Jay Kitzmiller



Rose field plot data collection, Plumas National Forest.



Plumas National Forest

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