

Effectiveness of Native Plant Material for Revegetation of Decommissioned Roads

FY2008 Accomplishments

This project involves a partnership between the USFS Northern Region and the University of Montana, Department of Forestry and Conservation to investigate the effectiveness of different native plant materials and revegetation techniques on newly decommissioned forest roads in the inland Northwest. The research project was designed and initiated in 2007 with field data collection occurring in FY07 and FY08.

Research accomplishments during FY08 include:

- Collected post-treatment (1 yr after road decommissioning) data on vegetative establishment and soil physical properties at 13 field sites on the Kootenai (MT) and Clearwater (ID) National Forests;
- Conducted a survey of road decommissioning and restoration practices on all national forests in Region 1 and 6; and
- Started statistical analyses of field data from the 2007 and 2008 field seasons.

Factors being tested with experimental treatments include:

- Seed mix ~ three levels: 1) non-native species mix, 2) native graminoid mix; and 3) high-diversity native mix that includes forb, shrub and graminoid species; and
- Density of seed application ~ two levels: 1) high (30lbs/acre) and 2) low (15lbs/acre).

In addition, an experimental treatment with fertilizer was added at each site on the Kootenai NF. Forest staff is interested in comparing vegetative responses between fertilized and unfertilized plots.

In FY09, we will conduct 2-yr post-seeding vegetation surveys, analyze results, and communicate results to FS personnel and the scientific community.



Vegetation sampling: percent cover (above), biomass collection (below).



Year awarded: initial award in 2007

Project completion: 2009

Report number: 2 of 3

Expenditures:

- FY07/08 funding: \$70,000
- FY08 expenditures: \$34,960
- Remaining: \$19,962

Partners/contractors/coop:

- Univ. of Montana, Missoula, MT
- Wildlands CPR, Missoula, MT

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