

Local Native Genotype Project For Cool Season Grasses Of The Huron-Manistee National Forests

2008 Accomplishments

The Huron-Manistee National Forests are developing a source of local genotype cool season native grass seed for use in barrens and savannah restoration projects and in areas impacted by wildfires or erosion. Currently there is no source for local genotypes seeds for cool season grasses native to these forests.

A grant for this project was awarded in March, 2007. Native Connections of Constantine, Michigan, was awarded the contract for seed collection and propagation. The contractor collected seed from sites across the Manistee-Huron forests in July and August of 2007. Four species were collected: June grass (*Koeleria macrantha*), poverty oats (*Danthonia spicata*), hair grass (*Deshampsia flexuosa*), and blue-joint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*).

In the spring of 2008, the contractor sowed the collected and cleaned seeds in four 1-acre propagation increase beds isolated from non-local sources of these grass species. Seed delivery to the Forest is expected in 2009-2010. Delivered seed will be used for ORV damage restoration and re-seeding following fire break creation and wildfire.



Planting of cool season grasses in propagation beds.



Planted beds of native grass October 08.

Year Awarded: 2007

Project completion: 2009

Report number: 2 of 3

Expenditures:

- FY07 funding \$71,000
- Expended \$44,000
- \$21,660 remaining

Contractor: Native Connections

Contact:

Pat McGhan (231) 745-4631



Huron-Manistee National Forests
1755 S. Mitchell Street
Cadillac, MI 49601