

# Restoration of Black Hills Montane Grassland Sites

## Phase 3: Seed Increasing

### 2009 Accomplishments

In 2007 Black Hills National Forest partnered with Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) – Rapid City to restore montane grasslands and initiate development of a native plant materials program for the Black Hills region. Black Hills montane grasslands are an endemic, wildflower-rich plant community the extent of which has been severely decreased with Euro-American settlement. It is one of the most endangered vegetation types in the Black Hills.

- Forest Botanist attended “Developing a Successful Native Plant Program” Workshop in Ontario, OR
- Plugs of *Sporobolus heterolepis*, *Achnatherum richardsonii*, and *Danthonia intermedia* were very successfully grown at Bessey Nursery (approximately 5,000 plugs were returned to the Black Hills National Forest).
- Plugs were planted in May at the Rocky Mountain Research Station Native Plant Material Site in Rapid City, SD.
- Unfortunately, only 20% of the 2009 plugs survived.
- Most of the seedlings planted in 2008 were thriving and produced seed.

The long-term goal of these initial efforts was to establish a permanent native plant materials program for revegetation and restoration projects on public and private lands in the Black Hills.



Figure 1. A group effort allowed us to plant 5,000 plugs in two days.



Figure 2. A RMRS seasonal employee demonstrates her plug planting skills.

**Year Awarded:** 2008

**Project completion:** 2009

**Report number:** 1

**Funding:** FY09 \$21,000

**Expenditures:**

Planting & care of sites	\$11,000
Training	\$1,000
Supervisory time	\$4,000
Grow seed for plugs	\$5,000

**Partners:**

Rocky Mountain Research Station  
USFS Bessey Nursery

**Contact:**

Craig Beckner, Rangeland Mgt. Spec.  
Black Hills NF  
(605) 673-9273



**Black Hills National Forest**

1019 North 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Custer, SD 57730