

# Native Forb Seed Propagation on the Lassen National Forest

## 2009 Accomplishments

The Lassen National Forest was awarded NFN3 money in 2008 to initiate the addition of native forb seed production to its Native Plant Materials Program. A native grass seed production program is currently underway but because dense grass cover can inhibit the re-establishment of conifer seedlings, grass alone is not always optimal for natural area restoration. Utilization of native forbs along with native grasses can be beneficial for restoration projects.

During the summer of 2009, seed from the native forbs *Eriogonum umbellatum* (sulfur buckwheat) and *Helianthella californica* (California helianthella) was harvested from Lassen National Forest lands. The collected seed will be cleaned at the Bend Seed Extractory in Bend, Oregon, and then sown at the J. Herbert Stone Nursery in Central Point, Oregon, in the Fall of 2009. One-third acre of *Wyethia mollis* at J. Herbert Stone Nursery, planted in Fall 2008, is completing its first year of grow-out. Harvest of seed from this crop is anticipated in two years. It is estimated that in total, nearly 300 pounds of native forb seed will be produced through this project; a quantity that could be used to re-vegetate approximately 200 acres. Potential benefiting partners include Lassen NF Engineering and Hydrology work groups, Modoc and Plumas National Forests, PG&E, and the Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District.



*Eriogonum umbellatum* (sulfur buckwheat), photo from the collection of Brother Alfred Brousseau, St. Mary's College, California.



*Helianthella californica* (California helianthella), photo from the collection of Brother Alfred Brousseau, St. Mary's College, California.

**Year Awarded:** Initial award in 2008

**Project Completion:** 2011

**Report Number:** 3 of 5

**Expenditures (through 2009):** \$46,000

**Remaining Funding:** \$0

**Partners/Contractors/Cooperators:**  
Bend Seed Extractory, J. Herbert Stone Nursery



**Lassen National Forest**  
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