

Planting Native Grass In Wildfire Weed Sites Tahoe National Forest

2009 Accomplishments

This project was initiated in 2009. Native grass seed (*Leymus triticoides* - creeping wildrye) was purchased to be planted in wildfire areas in locations where newly established weed occurrences were removed. The American and Yuba River Wildfire Complex areas burned in June of 2008. These wildfire complex areas were surveyed for weeds in 2009 and newly established occurrences of spotted knapweed, skeleton weed, bull thistle, and Scotch broom were found within and adjacent to those burned areas. Creeping wildrye will be planted on about 10 acres where the weeds were removed. Creeping wildrye has been shown to compete sufficiently with weeds and is considered drought tolerant. The creeping wildrye seed was obtained from two different nurseries focusing on seed that was collected from roughly the same elevation and ecoregion as the wildfire areas. These spot revegetation measures help to rehabilitate areas where non-native invasive plant species became established due to wildfire and/or wildfire suppression efforts and help to achieve native plant revegetation objectives. Figure 1 shows Forest Service staff removing non-native thistles from the American River Wildfire Complex (The Westville Fire). Figure 2 shows a site being planted with creeping wildrye.



Figure 1. Hand removal of weeds within the American River Wildfire Complex.



Figure 2. Planting creeping wildrye seed

Year Awarded: Initial Award in 2009

Project completion: 2009

Report number: 1

Expenditures (2009): \$12,000

▪ Partners/Contractors/Cooperators: Nevada Placer Weed Management Area Group



Tahoe National Forest

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