

FS & California Ski Resorts Cooperative Ski Slope Native Plant Revegetation Study (Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Eldorado NF, Tahoe NF, San Bernardino NF, Inyo NF)

2009 Accomplishments

This project was initiated this year to develop and test provisional seed mixes designed for revegetation and rehabilitation at eight ski resorts located on five national forests. The goal of the project is to develop a native seed mix for each of the eight ski resorts that will perform as well or better at establishing vegetative cover and reducing erosion than the current non-native erosion control mixes used at ski resorts.

- Jennifer Burt, UC Davis graduate student, developed the project design and seed mix. A planting palette consisting of 21 species was developed based on species known to frequently occur with greater than 10% cover on Sierra Nevada ski slopes. This selection was based on research by Jennifer Burt.
- A protocol for plot establishment, planting, and data collection was developed. Five replicate blocks (15 plots) were established at Heavenly Ski Resort and Mammoth Mountain. Three replicate blocks (9 plots) were established at Alpine, Kirkwood, Snow Valley. Three replicate blocks minus 2 cleared plots (7 plots) were established at Sierra at Tahoe. One replicate block (3 plots) was established at Bear Mountain and Snow Summit to supplement the established plots at Snow Valley.
- UC Berkeley Botanic Garden will collect seed for this project. Each forest selected seed collection sites, UCB assessed the collection sites, and began collections. Seed collection will be completed in 2010.
- Integrated Environmental presented a workshop on the sediment source control handbook to FS personnel and ski resort personnel. The workshop highlighted the importance of soil amendments for ski slope revegetation and rehabilitation. The workshop outcome was that each ski resort agreed to install soil amendments using their own resources.
- Placerville Nursery will test seed for seed storage for seed collected in 2009.



Figure 1: Mike Jennings and Katie Heard collecting baseline data at Heavenly Ski Resort on a cleared plot

Year Awarded: 2009

Project Expected Completion Date: 2013

Report Number: 1 of 5

Expenditures (2009): \$68,000

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators: Ski Resorts (Sierra at Tahoe, Kirkwood, Alpine Meadows, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Bear Mountain, Snow Summit, Snow Valley, Heavenly, Mount Rose). University of California, Davis, University of California Berkeley Botanic Garden, FS Region 4, Humboldt Toiyabe NF, Placerville Nursery, Integrated Environmental.



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