

Dakota Prairie Grasslands

FY11 Native Plant Material Accomplishments

Using FY11 NFN3 funds we accomplished the following:

- Reconnaissance and collection of approximately 500 vegetative divisions of inland saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*) and alkaligrass (*Puccinellia nuttalliana*). Both species are salt tolerant and desirable for restoration of high salt oil/gas and rangeland sites. No genetically-local commercial sources for either species are currently available. Plant divisions were collected by Forest Service and Prairies Diversified nursery staff from five widely dispersed northern and southern sources across the Medora Ranger District.
- Transplanted divisions into production beds at Prairie's Diversified Nursery near Bismarck, ND. Nursery staff conducted transplanting as well as weed control during the 2011 growing season. Approximately 1200 square feet of production beds were established.
- Prairie's Diversified staff also grew seedlings of alkaligrass from Medora Ranger District seed and transplanted plugs into nursery rows for seed production.
- Ongoing work will involve assessment of seed productivity, weed control in nursery production plots, and development of techniques for establishing vegetative divisions of these two species on actual reclamation sites.
- U.S. Forest Service staff completed 28 vegetative transects on 10 recently restored well sites to determine plant species composition and cover and compare them to the actual seed mix installed. Transect data will be used to evaluate the success or deficiency of current restoration techniques and identify the need for other techniques or plant materials to compete effectively against invasive plants.

Below, collection of inland saltgrass rhizomes at South Gaylord site. Right shows early stages of nursery production rows of saltgrass and alkaligrass at Prairies Diversified Nursery



Typical oil well reclamation site, with seeded native grasses in foreground and portion of vegetation transect visible as yellow tape.

Year awarded: 2011

Project completion: ongoing

FY11 expenditures:
\$6,250 (NFN3)

Partners/contractors/coop:
Region One Native Plant Program,
Prairies Diversified, Bismarck, ND
(privately owned seed house and
nursery)

Contact: Joe Washington
701-227-7814
jpwashington@fs.fed.us



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Medora Ranger District
99 23rd Ave W
Dickinson, ND 58601