

# Development of Seed Transfer Zones for Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass through Common Garden Studies in Region One

## 2011 Accomplishments

The Five-Year Action Plan for the R1 Native Plant Program identified the need to develop seed transfer zones for core native revegetation species. In 2008 the multi-year R1 Seed Transfer Zone Study was initiated. 2011 represents its fourth year of implementation.

The first species selected under this initiative were two grasses, Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) and bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*). During the 2008 field season, R1 forests and grasslands collected wildland seed for the species and common garden studies were planted in 2009 at the USFS Coeur d'Alene Nursery.

**2011 Accomplishments:** 2011 represents the third year of data collection for these two species. Data for bluebunch wheatgrass has undergone a quality control review with data analysis tentatively scheduled for 2012-2013. Idaho fescue will require an additional level of genetic testing and the date for data analysis for this species is contingent upon the findings of this review.



**Upper figure:** Aram Eramian collecting data with a personal data recorder at the common garden study plots.

**Lower figure:** Grass seedlings in the Coeur d'Alene Nursery greenhouses in early spring before out planting in common garden study plots

**Year awarded:** Initial award in 2008

**Project completion:** 2013

**Report number:** 2 of 3

**Expenditures** (through 10/2011):

- FY08 funding \$100,000 (both species) NFN3 funding.
- Expended approximately \$55,000 in FY08
- Expended approximately \$20,000 in FY09
- Expended approximately \$10,000 in FY10
- Expended approximately \$7500 in FY11

**•\$7,500 remaining for FY11**

**Partners/contractors/cooperators:** USFS Coeur d'Alene Nursery, R1 Regional Geneticist, R1 Native Plant Program, R1 Forests and Grasslands

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The study is a cooperative venture between the USFS Coeur d'Alene Nursery, the R1 Regional Geneticist, the R1 Native Plant Program, and R1 forests and grasslands



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