

UP Native Plant Program

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest FY11 Native Plant Material Accomplishments

The Uncompahgre Partnership (UP) Native Plant Program is a cooperative program between the US Forest Service -Regions 2 and 4, BLM -Colorado and Utah State Offices, CO Div. of Parks & Wildlife and Utah Div. of Wildlife Resources. The goal of the program is to develop an adequate supply of species native to the Colorado Plateau for use in restoration and rehabilitation activities on public and private lands.

Using CFLR and NFN3 funds the following was accomplished:

- Provided seed of 15 native species to commercial growers for seed increase and commercial production purposes.
- Prepared study plot (weed control and soil preparation), developed species list, and cleaned and tested seed viability for the Comparison Studies with the Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center. Planting and fall monitoring was complete in FY 2011.
- Coordinated with the San Juan NF and CSU to develop species list, study parameters, clean and test seed viability for the Forb & Pioneer Species Cultivation Studies at the Yellow Jacket Research Station. Planting in FY 10 and monitoring in FY 2011.

Using partnership funds from BLM, CO DOPW, UT DWR, CSU, commercial growers, outside grant funding sources the following was accomplished:

- Wildland seed collection was completed on 12 species.
- Purchased of 1300 lbs of UP native seed grown by a commercial grower and distributed to federal, state agencies and private landowners for use in restoration and rehabilitation projects in western CO.
- Three native grass species are now available on the open market. Promoted their purchase and use by agencies, private landowners and companies for use in restoration and rehabilitation efforts.
- Cleaned seed of 2010 production (190 pounds of cleaned seed from 12 native species) from study plots in CO and UT.
- Assisted the CO Division Parks & Wildlife in the design of a native seed warehouse and distribution center to be located near Delta, CO.
- Identified priority species that are valuable for Gunnison sage grouse habitat. Coordinated with a seed crew from AZ to begin wildland collections of these species.
- Coordinated with Region 4 Forest Service on plantings at several wildland locations in Utah that include UP source seed.
- Continued maintenance and seed collection from study and seed increase plots in CO and UT.



Figure 2. Planting UP seed for comparison studies at Sims Mesa, Uncompahgre Plateau.



Figure 1. UP/Colorado Sulfur Buckwheat seed increase in State of Washington

Year Awarded and Amount:

- 2010 - \$35,000
- 2011 - \$50,000

Project completion: On Going FY 10 & 11 Expenditures:

- NFN3 Funds: \$5,000*
- CFLR Funds: \$30,000
- Partner Funds: \$126,815

*Expenditure of additional NFN3 funds expected in FY 2012

Partners/Contractors/Coop: USFS Regions 2 & 4, BLM States of CO and UT

Offices: CO Div. of Parks & Wildlife, UT Div. of Wildlife Resources, Public Lands Partnership, Colorado State Univ., Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Materials Center, and commercial/private growers.

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Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison NF

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