

Workhorse Native Species on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest

2011 Accomplishments

Project Goal:

The term “workhorse species” describes locally-adapted native plant species that have broad ecological amplitude, are abundant, propagate easily, and survive well. The Medicine Bow – Routt National Forest has developed native seed revegetation guidelines for five seed mixes that include several workhorse species. This project proposes collection and increase of five workhorse species: prairie junegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, Idaho fescue and bottlebrush squirreltail. Collections will occur during the 2010 and 2011 field seasons. Plantings will occur annually through 2012.

Seed Collections:

An unusually late spring significantly impaired seed set, and resulted in collection of non-target species. However, all species collected are components of the Medicine Bow – Routt National Forest native seed guidelines. The Steamboat Springs Community Youth Corps collected 11 lbs of mountain brome, 6 lbs of clematis, and 0.5 lbs of oniongrass, and 4 lbs of needle-and-thread grass. Wildland Restoration Volunteers collected 2 lbs of Idaho fescue, 5.5 lbs of King’s fescue, 5 lbs of Sandberg bluegrass and 5 lbs of needle-and-thread grass.



Wildland Restoration Volunteers collecting seed.

Seed Increase:

The collections of the bluebunch wheatgrass and prairie junegrass were planted at Lucky Peak Nursery in fall of 2010. Collections of mountain brome were planted this year.



District Ranger Mike Wright presents certificates of appreciation to Steamboat Springs Community Youth Corps for their native seed collection efforts.

Year Awarded: 2010

Project completion: 2012

Report number: 2 of 3

Funding:

- FY10 obligated \$75,000

Partners/Contractors/Coop:

- Steamboat Springs Community Youth Corps
- Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center
- Wildland Restoration Volunteers

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