

Colorado Plateau Native Plant Materials Program



FY 2012 Accomplishments

Phase one of the grass adaptability study of six grass species on four selected USDA US Forest Service sites within Region 4 of the state of Utah is nearly complete and we are now moving into phase two. *The grass species are; Indian ricegrass, prairie junegrass, muttongrass, needle and thread, Sandberg bluegrass, and squirreltail.*

Species Adaptability Studies:

Phase One

- Seed collections were made throughout the Colorado Plateau of all six grass species. Elevation, soil type and plant community relationships were keys in the collection effort. Known cultivars (if any) were also included in the study. The accessions were refined down to 156 collections to be compared on four sites.
- Each forest (Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake and Manti- Lasal) is represented.
- Climatic solar weather stations were installed at every location in 2011.
- Survival, plant vigor, forage biomass and seed production are all being recorded to evaluate and find the top performers for each species. Climatic data will be included in the assessment. A photo record of each species on each site is being assembled.
- Top performers of each grass specie will be moved into commercial production

Germination and Sowing Techniques

Phase Two

- Implement fire with different planting techniques and varied mulching applications to find the best way to maximize germination of these most adaptive native grasses.
- A study plot will be established at each location adjacent to the phase one site.
- Work began in summer of 2012.



Year Awarded: 2007-12

Project completion: 2015

Report number: 4 of 8

Expenditures:

- FY08 funding: 160,000
- FY08 expended: 155,000
- FY09 funding 160,000 spent out
- FY10 funding 95,000 remaining 2000
- FY11 funding 95,000 remaining 1200

Partners/Contractors/Coop: USFS Region 2 & Region 4, USDI BLM Colorado and Utah State Offices, Colorado Division of Wildlife and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in cooperation with the Great Basin Station, UT; Brigham Young Universities, Snow College, Southern Utah University.

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