



## Wayne NF presents at Eastern Native Grass Symposium

***Wayne National Forest and Porterbrook Native Plants report results of a fireline restoration projects at the Fifth Eastern Native Grass Symposium.***

***Chad Kirschbaum***



**Chad Kirschbaum, Botanist on the Ironton District of the Wayne NF and Dr. Frank Porter a native plant grower with their display.**

The Fifth Eastern Native Grass Symposium was packed with information for land managers who are interested in using native grasses for wildlife management and ecosystem restoration. Among the presenters were Chad Kirschbaum, Botanist on the Ironton Ranger District of the Wayne National Forest and Dr. Frank Porter a native plant grower from Porterbrook Native Plants.

Dr. Porter has been growing plants from seed provided by the Wayne National Forest for the last two years. Seventeen species of native plants were planted along bulldozer lines used in fire suppression on the Ironton

District. The plants were planted by firefighters and biological science technicians from the Wayne and other national forests. The rehabilitated sites were the County Line Fire (November 2005, 156 ac) and the Red Bud Fire (April 2006, 43 ac).

Re-vegetation of dozer lines is an important aspect of post-fire rehabilitation. Dozer lines can lead to erosion on slopes and are prime locations for the establishment and spread of non-native invasive species.

After monitoring the plantings, 138 of 358 planted plants were re-located. Due to natural re-vegetation in some areas, it was difficult to re-find the plants. On average 30% of the dozer lines naturally re-vegetated from colonizing seeds or root sprouts. However, even after 1 year many areas along dozer lines have exposed bare soil. Another problem that was noted is that infestations of non-native invasive plants were spread unintentionally along dozer lines.

Some plant species fared better than others when planted on the dozer line. Based on the study that Kirschbaum and Porter presented at the Native Grass Symposium, the following species are recommended for use along dozer lines:

### Full Sun

- Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*)
- Wild Ipecac (*Porteranthus stipulatus*)

### Filtered Sun

- Wild Rye (*Elymus canadensis*)

- Deer Tongue Panicum clandestinum
- Shade
- Plantain-Leaf Sedge (*Carex plataginea*)
- Wood Rush (*Luzula acuminata*)
- Beakgrass (*Diarhhena americana*)
- Early Buttercup (*Ranunculus fascicularis*)

In future planting projects Kirschbaum would like to track plant survival by flagging planted plants, documenting topography to better understand the mechanics of revegetation, using native seeding treatments, and planting other species such as White Snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum*), White wood Aster (*Aster divaricatus*) and White grass (*Leersia virginica*).

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