

Local Native Genotype Project For Cool Season Grasses Of The Huron-Manistee National Forests

2007 Accomplishments

The Huron-Manistee National Forests are developing a source of local genotype cool season native grass seed for use in barrens and savannah restoration projects and in areas impacted by wildfires or erosion. Currently there is no source for local genotypes seeds for cool season grasses native to these forests.

A grant for this project was awarded in March, 2007. Native Connections of Constantine, Michigan, was awarded the contract for seed collection and propagation, and a term employee was hired to locate collection areas and provide location maps and other logistical support to the contractor. The contractor's crew collected seed from sites across the Manistee-Huron forests in July and August of 2007. Four species were collected: June grass (*Koeleria macrantha*), poverty oats (*Danthonia spicata*), hair grass (*Deshampsia flexuosa*), and blue-joint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*). The original grant proposal referenced the collection of Canada wild-rye (*Elymus canadensis*), but this species was dropped from the project, and blue-joint added in its place, because insufficient amounts of wild-rye were available for seed collection from locations within or nearby forest lands.

In the spring of 2008, the contractor will sow the collected seeds in fields isolated from non-local sources of these grass species. Seed delivery is expected in 2009-2010



Native Connections contractor dries freshly cut seed stalks during field collection in the Manistee forest.



Seed being cleaned prior to determining Percent Live Seed weight.

Year Awarded: 2007

Project completion: 2009

Report number: 1 of 3

Expenditures:

- FY07 funding \$71,000
- Expended \$5,340
- \$65,660 remaining

Contractor: Native Connections

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