

# USFS

## Native Plant Restoration Program

### *Pacific Northwest Region*



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Ontario, OR  
4/1/09



# ***NATIONAL NATIVE PLANT MATERIALS POLICY*** **(FSM 2070, 2008)**

- **Local native plant materials are the first choice**
- **Restrict use of persistent, non-native species**
- **Non-native spp. will not hybridize or adversely affect the recovery of native spp.**
- **No invasives!**
- **Rx (spp. & source) is developed by a plant materials specialist**
- **A reliable source of plant materials is essential**



# Building a Native Plant Restoration Program

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**Priority 1: Seed need projections**

**Priority 2: Increase native seed supplies**

**Priority 3: Funding & partnerships**

**Priority 4: Training/technology transfer**

**Priority 5: R&D**

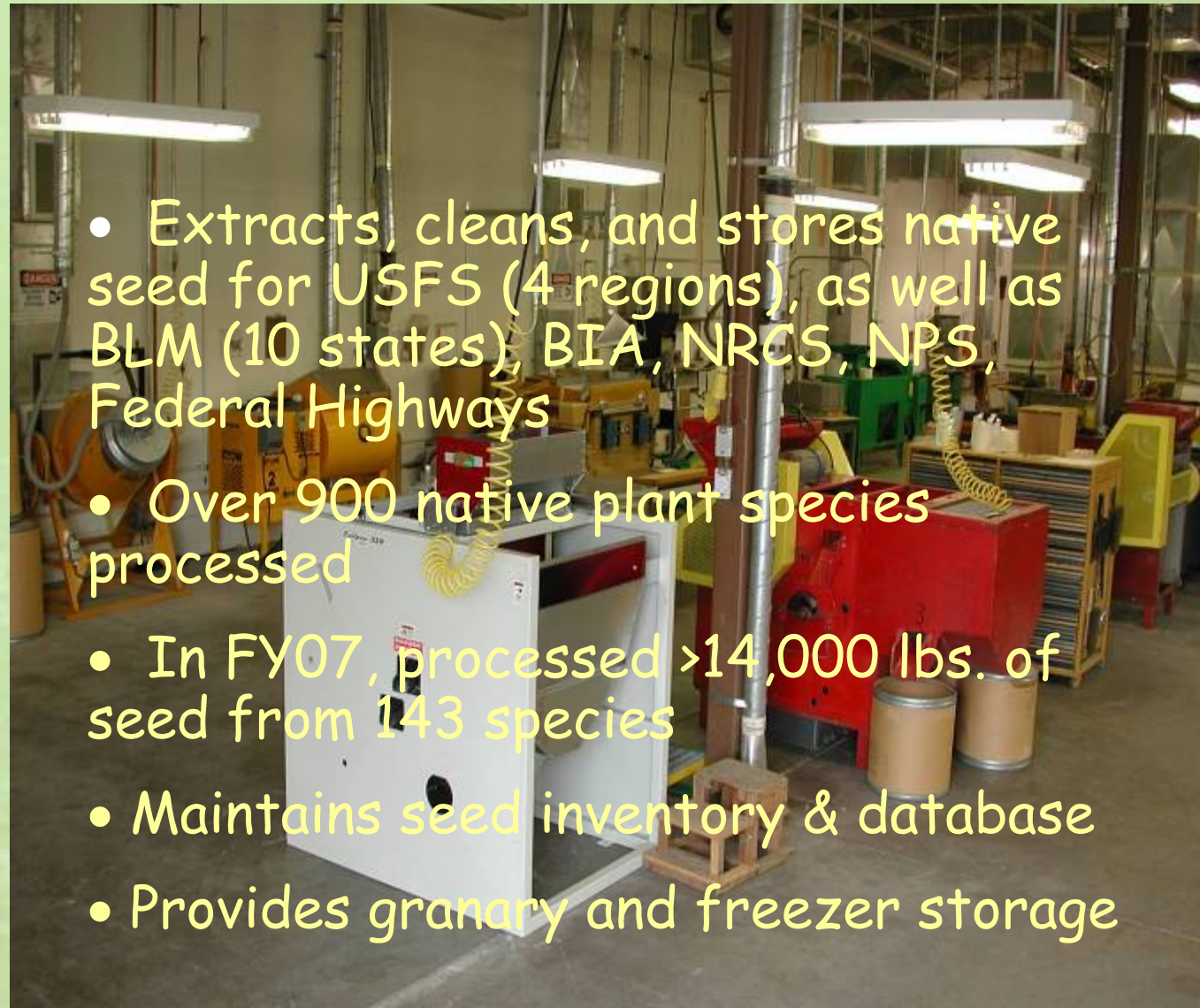


**NATIVE PLANTS**



*"Never, ever, think outside the box."*

# USFS Bend Seed Extractory



- Extracts, cleans, and stores native seed for USFS (4 regions), as well as BLM (10 states), BIA, NRCS, NPS, Federal Highways
- Over 900 native plant species processed
- In FY07, processed >14,000 lbs. of seed from 143 species
- Maintains seed inventory & database
- Provides granary and freezer storage

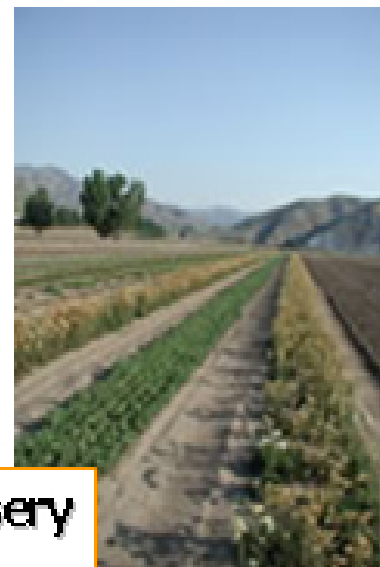
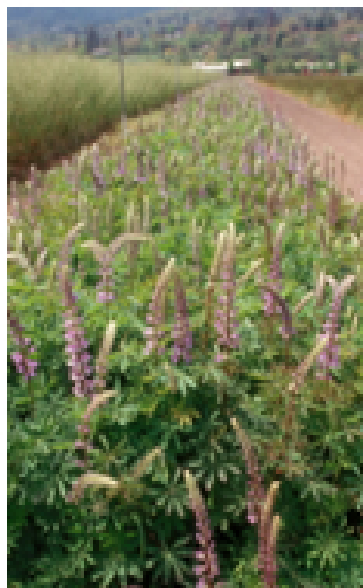
# **BSE Support to National Forests**

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- **Seed procurement planning**
  - ✓ Seed recovery (pre/post cleaning weights)
  - ✓ Purity, germ, seeds/lb, contamination issues
- **Preparing seed collection contracts & specifications**
- **Seed testing methods**
- **Assessing seed quality**

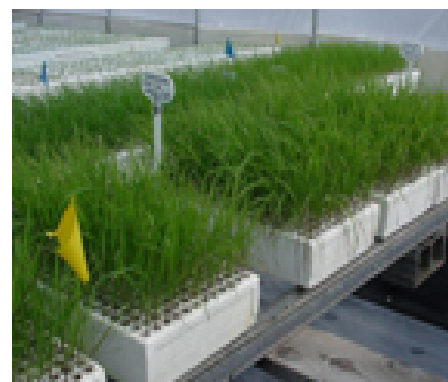
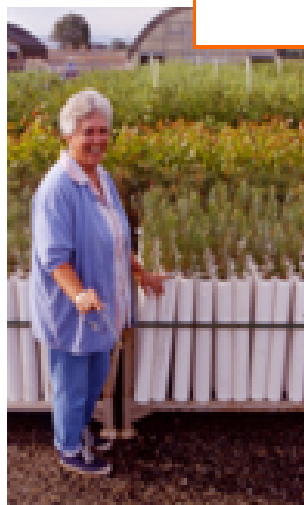


# Native Seed and Plant Production at Forest Service Nurseries



**Lucky Peak Nursery  
(Boise, ID)**

**J. Herbert Stone Nursery  
(Medford, OR)**

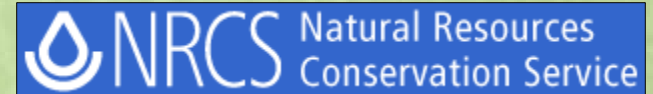


**Coeur d'Alene Nursery  
(Coeur d'Alene, ID)**

# R6-NRCS Interagency Agreement



- Region 6 umbrella agreement, 5-years
- Germination & propagation trials
- Protocol development
- Small-scale seed production
- Common garden test site
- Current projects: *Mondardella*, *Penstemon*, *Trifolium*, *Erigeron*/  
*Helianthella*, *Viola*, *Solidago*, *Aster* spp.





# **BLM Horning Seed Orchard MOU & Partnership**

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# Private Seed Producers

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- Willamette Valley (western OR)
- Columbia Basin (eastern OR/WA)





# **PNW Seed Production Contract**

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- **5 year, IDIQ commercial services**
- **USFS & BLM (OR, WA, ID)**
- **Contract is open every 3 years**
  - ✓ **3<sup>rd</sup> offering, Spring 2009**
- **Contractors submit proposals/respond to evaluation criteria**
  - ✓ **Qualifications/experience/performance**
- **A pool of qualified growers is selected**

# PNW Native Grass & Forb Seed Contract

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- **Meets State Certification Standards for:**
  - **Source Identified Class**
  - **Isolation distances**
  - **Prohibited or restricted weeds**
  - **Purity**
  - **Germination**
- **Cleaning/bagging/labeling requirements**
- **Straw quality standards**

# Task Orders

- **Specify spp., quantity, timeframe,**
- **Additional requirements/specifications**
- **Two price structures**
  - » **“Easy-to-Grow” (\$/lb )**
  - » **High risk species (\$/acre)**
    - **Difficult to grow**
    - **No/limited production experience**

*broad ecological amplitude* *"easily" collected & propagated* *grow well on disturbed sites*

## **"Workhorse" Species:**

### **Grasses:**

- Blue wildrye
- Bluebunch wheatgrass
- Mountain brome
- Sandberg's bluegrass
- Great basin wildrye
- Idaho fescue
- Squirreltail
- Prairie junegrass
- Stipa spp.
- Slender hairgrass

### **Forbs:**

- Yarrow
- Pearly everlasting
- Buckwheat
- Blue flax
- Lupinus spp.
- Penstemon spp.
- Aster spp.

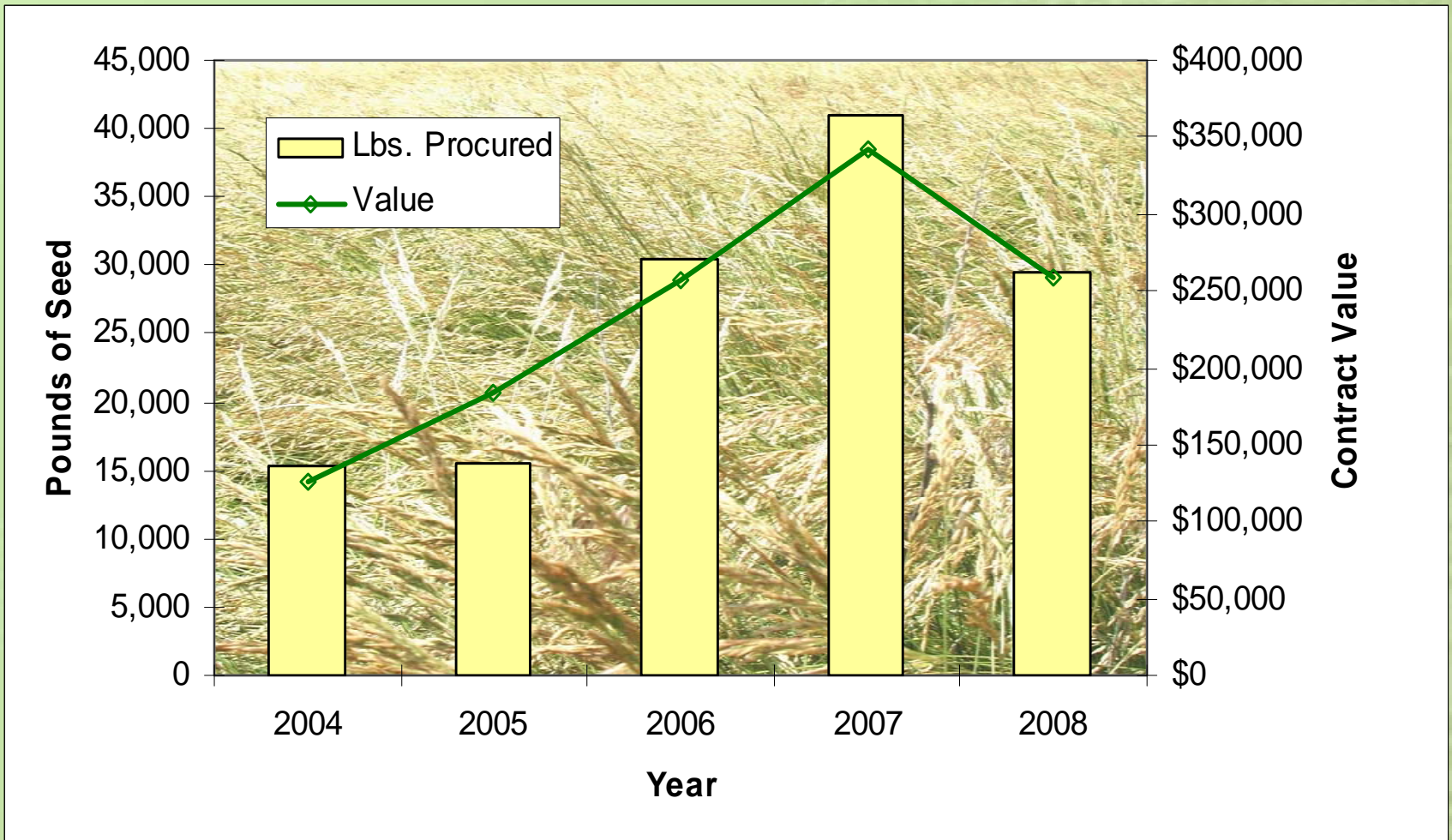
# Task Orders

- **Submitted through local FS/BLM contracting office**
  - **Competed among growers**
- **Award (~7 day turnaround)**
  - ✓ **price**
  - ✓ **technical merits**
  - ✓ **experience**
  - ✓ **past performance**
- **Govt. has first right of refusal for excess seed**

# Advantages

- **Time & stress saving**
- **Flexible & fast**
- **Multi-year**
- **Pre-qualified (really good) contractors**
- **Strong quality control**
- **Develops industry expertise**
- **Benefits rural economies**
- **Builds long-term partnerships**
- **Contributes to secondary (non-FS) market**

# Species & Cost Trends



Task order manager: Karen Prudhomme (kprudhomme@fs.fed.us)

<b>Species</b>	<b>Sowing Rates (lbs of clean seed to sow per acre)</b>	<b>Average first year yields (lbs/ac)</b>	<b>Average second year yields (lbs/ac)</b>	<b>Average seeds per pound</b>	<b>Average germination/ purity of harvested seeds</b>
<b>Bluebunch Wheatgrass</b> <i>(Pseudoroegneria spicata)</i>	8	200	300	140,000	75/95
<b>Blue Wildrye</b> <i>(Elymus glaucus)</i>	6	450	200	110,000	65/96
<b>Bottlebrush Squirreltail</b> <i>(Elymus elymoides)</i> or <b>Big Squirreltail</b> <i>(Elymus multisetus)</i>	6	0	125	110,000	75/90
<b>California Oatgrass</b> <i>(Danthonia californica)</i>	8	25	250	125,000	75/90
<b>Great Basin Wildrye</b> <i>(Leymus cinereus)</i>	8	25	160	130,000	75/95
<b>Idaho Fescue</b> <i>(Festuca idahoensis)</i>	4	50	400	450,000	75/90
<b>Indian Ricegrass</b> <i>(Oryzopsis hymenoides)</i>	6	0	200	120,000	80/85
<b>Lemmon's Needlegrass</b> <i>(Achnatherum lemmonii)</i>	8	150	750	150,000	50/95
<b>Mountain Brome</b> <i>(Bromus carinatus)</i>	10	800	600	70,000	85/90

*Source: R6 seed increase contract, published in Steinfeld et al. (2007).*

# http://fswweb.r6.fs.fed.us/nr/native-plants/



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**Pacific Northwest Region**  
R6, Portland, Oregon

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## R6 Native Plant Restoration Program

### Regional Contracts/Agreements

**Regional Grass/Forb Seed Increase Contract** – The purpose of this contract is to produce grass/forb seed and straw for Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management units located in the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Purity, germination, and noxious weed tested seed shall be provided by the government for field establishment. This is a multiple-award IDIQ contract, spanning 5 years. Karen Prudhomme ([kprudhomme@fs.fed.us](mailto:kprudhomme@fs.fed.us)) is the task order manager. Task orders are submitted/issued through your local AQM office using standard procurement procedures.

- Contract Documents
  - [Seed Production Contract](#)
  - [Exhibits](#)
  - [Modifications/Amendments](#)
  - [Task Order Form](#)
- Q&A's
- [Contractors](#)
- Example Task Orders - See Q&A's
- [Sole Source Justification](#)
- [Cost summaries/reports](#)

## facilities

- [Bend Seed Extractory](#)
- [JHSN Nursery](#)
- [Lucky Peak Nursery](#)
- [Coeur d'Alene Nursery](#)
- [Corvallis NRCS Plant Materials Center](#)
- [Oregon State University Seed Lab](#)
- [Washington Dept. of Agriculture Seed Program](#)
- [USFS National Seed Lab](#)

## featured links

- [WO Native Plant Materials Website](#)
- [Roadside Revegetation Manual](#)
- [Olympic Native Plant Notebook](#)
- [Umatilla Native Plant Notebook](#)
- [Umpqua Native Plants](#)
- [Region 1 Native Plant Program Reforestation/Nurseries/Genetic Resources](#)

US Forest Service

**For additional information, contact:**



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