

A Native Plant Development Program for the Colorado Plateau

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Abstract—Revegetation programs instigated in the Intermountain West have relied on the use of introduced perennial grasses, with attention focused upon improving the agronomic and forage attributes of these species. Currently, a wide number of site adapted native species are required to restore the extensive disturbances throughout the West including the Colorado Plateau. Through cooperation with Federal and State agencies and Universities in Colorado and Utah studies have recently been initiated to identify the principal species associated within pinyon/juniper and sagebrush communities of this region. Studies are designed to evaluate ecotypic variability and ecological adaptation of individual taxa. Concurrently, seed production studies are being established to determine culture requirements to produce, harvest, and process seed for large-scale restoration projects. In addition, seed germination and seedbed ecology studies are being developed to reassemble multiple species including interseeding into areas where retention of some species is desired. The progress and status of individual studies will be reported.

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