

Lassen National Forest Native Seed Propagation Initiative

2005 Accomplishments

The Lassen National Forest was awarded NFN3 money to initiate the first phase of its Native Plant Materials Program. The goal of this program is to develop genetically local, native grass seed mixes for use in revegetating future wildfire areas on the Forest.

The current project focused on collecting grass seed from species that are common to the upland and meadow areas of the western region of the Forest. During August, two Biological Technicians, under the supervision of the Assistant Forest Botanist, hand-collected 22 lbs. of native grass seed from eight species at six sites. This seed was sent to the Region 6 Seed Extractory for cleaning and testing. The cleaned seed was shipped to Sierra Valley Farms in Beckworth, California, a local nursery that specializes in growing native plants. This seed will be propagated this year and re-sown in the fall of 2006, with a final harvest of seed and grass bales in 2007. It is estimated that the final product will be nearly 2500 lbs of seed that could revegetate approximately 250 acres. Once established, the grass fields could be kept in production for several years, providing a steady supply of native seed and hay bales for the Lassen's future, fire rehabilitation efforts.

Expenditure of Funds:

- Seed collecting: \$4,385
- Seed cleaning and testing: \$1,300
- Two year contract grow-out: \$38,315



Collecting blue wildrye (Elymus glaucus).



Cleaned and tested seed ready for sowing.

Native Plant Materials Program NFN3 Project Status Report FY 2005

Total Project Cost: \$44,000

Other Funding: None

Employed: One native plant nursery

Type of Project: Collection and propagation of native grass seed for use in fire rehabilitation projects.

Year Awarded: 2005



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