

Idaho Fescue Grow Out

Gallatin National Forest

2006 Accomplishments

This project called for increasing 5 pounds of Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) seed collected locally on the Gallatin National Forest to 300 pounds over a three year period. This seed would then be mixed with 258 pounds of slender wheatgrass and seeded on 60 acres of burned area.

Since this funding was received it has been determined that the Idaho fescue production would be better served, because of its quality genetics, by being delivered to growers with the intent of that seed serving as foundation seed for south-central Montana source-identified seed mixes. The remaining funds would then be applied towards purchasing the seed and making it available for use in restoration of burned areas.

To date, Lloyd Harris, the contracted grower, has been able to produce an estimated 50 pounds of pure live seed in 2005 and another 150 pounds in 2006. The 2006 production levels were less than expected due primarily to poor weather conditions in May 2006. The cool and dry conditions were not conducive to Idaho fescue growth, vigorous flowering and seed set. Lloyd has requested contract extension of one year to allow for the remaining 100 pounds of seed production, which would be delivered by October 2007.

We are currently working with the Bridger Plant Materials Center and the Montana Seed Growers Association president, Ron Larson, in deciding which of the interested growers would be most suited for growing out the seed. We recently developed seeding guidelines for south-central Montana, which incorporates this seed as a first priority when it becomes available. We have at least four parties interested in growing out the seed.



Year Awarded: FY2004 \$16,300

Project completion: FY2007

Report number: 3 of 4

Expenditures:

- FY04 \$2,500
- FY05 \$2,500
- FY06 \$0
- FY07 \$11,238 remaining

Partner:

Lloyd Harris, Grower

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