

Native Plant Materials Production for Restoration Projects on the Sitka Ranger District

2006 Accomplishments

The goals for the Sitka Ranger District native plant materials project in 2006 were site preparation, species selection, seed collection and developing new planting beds. Despite a record year of heavy rainfall, these goals were accomplished. The site, located at the old Sitka Agricultural Experiment Station, was generally overgrown with grasses and weeds, so sod removal and some leveling were needed. Gravel was imported to improve drainage and create dry pathways. New soil was prepared by mixing pea sized gravel and soil excavated from the site. Since we are in a temperate rainforest, mounded planting beds were made to improve drainage and soil productivity. Locally collected alder leaves and seaweed are being composted and will be added to the beds to provide additional organic matter and soil nutrients.

Seed or spores from 12 native plants were collected this summer. One shrub, two forbs, four grasses, one sedge and four ferns were chosen for next year's propagation phase of the project. Additional shrubs may be added from cuttings made next spring. The plants were selected based on their favorable revegetation potential for projects across a wide variety of habitats. The four ferns, all sword ferns, are large showy evergreens with well-known value as landscape plants. Ongoing work by the Cooperative Extension Service at this site is devoted to demonstrating the landscape and garden value of local native plants. In addition to propagating native plants for restoration, demonstrating the landscape value of other native plants is a future goal of this project.



Mounded planting beds being built.



Sod removal and site leveling.

Year Awarded: 2005

Project completion: 2008

Report number: 1 of 3

Expenditures:

- FY06 funding \$24,000,
- \$4,000 expended in 2006
- \$20,000 remaining.

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators:

- University of Alaska, Cooperative Extension Service
- National Park Service.

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