

Development of Native Grass Seed Source In Michigan's Northern Lower Peninsula – Huron-Manistee National Forests

2006 Accomplishments

In 2006, the Hughes Lake fire burned almost 6,000 acres and required over 18 miles of dozer/plow lines. Thanks to the initiation of this project in 2004, the HMNF was able to acquire 500 pounds of native warm season grass seed from a local source within 72 hours of containment. Although the native grass seed needed to rehabilitate fire suppression lines and scorched areas of the fire could not have been anticipated nor ordered in advance, the larger quantities of local native grasses were available in 2006 because this project set the seed production wheels in motion in 2004.

The proposal for this project stated, as part of its purpose, “ If native grass seed had been available, it would have been utilized for reclamation of fire lines and high-intensity burned areas on the Warfield Road (650 acres) and Aldridge (550 acres) Fires in 2003 and No Pablo Fire (5,800 acres) in 2000.” Historically, the lack of availability of native grasses in large quantities meant that the Forests had to choose between cover crops of non-persistent non-native species or native species from non-local sources in restoration projects. Thanks to this project, the HMNF can now continue to maintain native genotype integrity in the reclamation of fire-devastated lands.



Reseeding fire lines with local, native grasses



Hughes Lake Fire (above) and dozer line(below)



Year Awarded: 2004
Project completion: 2008
Report number: 3 of 5
Expenditures:

- FY05 \$5,860
- FY06 \$ 10,425
- Remaining \$36,415

Contractors: Gaia Grass
Native Connections
Michigan Wildflower Farm
FY06 delivered: 750 lbs warm season grasses
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Huron-Manistee National Forests

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