

# Development of Tongass National Forest native plant materials for rehabilitation and restoration.

## 2007 Accomplishments

This project was initiated in 2005 to obtain native plant material from local genetic stock on the Tongass National Forest. The TNF has been working with J. Herbert Stone Nursery in Central Point, OR (R06) for over 10 years on growth and harvest of native plant materials. This year's funding was used to finance the continued growth of 2.1 acres of native grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* that was propagated in 2005 and 2006.

The original wild seed stock for this project was collected throughout the Tongass National Forest and propagated at J. Herbert Stone as early as 1998. From the harvest of these crops in early 2000, seed was used for new crops, thus replacing old crops and increasing our total acreage.

*Deschampsia cespitosa* is only one of several native plant species that has been grown at JHS for the Tongass N.F. Different from other native species, this grass has shown positive results for growth and yield in the southern environs of central Oregon. Harvest from these crops in 2006 was 245 lbs/ac (raw, un-cleaned poundage). 2007 yields were 108.5/ac and 20 lbs/ac for two separate lots. The low yield of one lot was likely due to the fact that it had been planted in 2006 and had not matured enough to put on seed material as of yet. On the average, harvests of this species tend to be highest on the second and third years of growth, followed by gradual decreases until about year 5 and 6 when the crops should be replaced with new stock. 2008 will focus efforts on replacing crops that are not producing well and possibly adding new lots for increase acreage of this important species. Figure 1 shows SE Alaska crops grown at J. Herbert Stone Nursery.

Seed material from JHS was used on the TNF for several restoration projects in 2007. We used the seed in combination with other native plant materials, such as *Lupinus nootkatensis*, which is grown commercially in one of SE Alaska's local communities. These restoration projects included the Mendenhall Visitors Center nature trail, Steep Creek trail, and the new US Forest Service, Juneau Ranger District office. The Tongass continues to prioritize use of our limited native plant materials on special projects that focus our attention on our National Native Plant policy. This includes revegetation on trails, within areas not yet affected by non-native species, and within non-development land use designations where our desired conditions are to maintain natural and near natural conditions.

**Figure 1.** *Deschampsia cespitosa* grown at J. Herbert Stone Nursery (photo by P. Krosse).



Year Awarded: 2007

Project completion: on-going

Report number: 1

Expenditures (through 10/2007):

- \$27,000 – Total project award
- \$17,262 – growth and harvest of 2.1 acres *Deschampsia cespitosa* at J. Herbert Stone Nursery
- \$200 – shipping of native seed from OR to Ketchikan, AK
- \$8000 – Salary for Sitka Ranger District Botanist to maintain native plants propagated in 2006
- \$1538 – Program Management, TNF Program Leader

Partners: US Forest Service, R06, Rogue River N.F., J. Herbert Stone Nursery

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