

# San Juan National Forest Native Plant Materials Program

## FY2010 Accomplishments: *Pioneering Plants Project*

### Project Goal:

Severely degraded lands often support only weedy, usually non-native plant species. We believe it is plausible to begin restoring self-sustaining native plant communities on these lands by reseeding with "pioneer" native species. The goal of this project is researching and developing economically viable techniques to produce seed from pioneering early- and mid- successional native species. This project will help make it profitable for commercial seed companies to produce these seeds for restoration and reclamation projects in the future.

### Seed Collections:

In FY2009, using a combination of Forest Service Native Plant Materials (NPM) and BLM ARRA funds, we inventoried twenty wildland collection sites, studied phenology, and collected seeds from eight species. In FY2010, we inventoried ten collection sites and made thirteen collections. All seeds were sent to the BLM *Seeds of Success* Bend Seed Extractory. Seedlots from 2009 were cleaned and tested, then a portion of each collection preserved in a long-term storage facility and a portion sent back for increase. The same process will occur with 2010 seedlots.

### Seed Increase:

US Forest Service NPM funds were used to enter into a Challenge Cost-Share Agreement with Colorado State University (CSU) Southwestern Colorado Research Center. BLM funds were used to contract Southwest Seed, Inc., a local seed grower. Both projects involve planting seed increase plots of pioneer species. Planting at CSU was delayed from Fall 2009 to Fall 2010 due to weather. Planting at Southwest Seed occurred in Spring 2010. The Uncompaghre Partnership is a partner in these projects. Seed yields are expected in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Data on propagation, cultivation, harvesting and reclamation potential is being collected.

### Native Plant Showcase Garden:

CSU will plant and maintain a native plant garden at the Dolores Public Lands Office administrative site. The garden will reclaim a degraded site and serve as a learning tool for agencies, researchers, and the community. Colorado Habitat Partnership Program donated fence materials. Design was completed, and burning for site preparation and construction initiated in FY2010.



The CSU field was planted into beans for a cover crop and soil improvement in Summer 2010 in preparation for the native seed planting in Fall 2010.



Bulbous spring parsley, an early-successional native forb we collected in 2010. Photo by Al Schneider @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

**Year Awarded:** 2009

**Project Completion:** 2013

**Report Number:** 2 of 3

### Expenditures:

- FY09 funds received \$58,500.
- FY09 funds obligated \$58,500.
- FY10 funds expended \$3,432.

### Partners/Contractors/Cooperators:

- Colorado State University
- Uncompaghre Partnership
- BLM Seeds of Success Program
- Southwest Seed, Inc.
- Colorado Habitat Partnership Program

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