



Colorado Plateau Native Plant Materials Program

FY 2011 Accomplishments

Excellent data is now being analyzed from the native grass adaptability study of six grass species on four selected USDA US Forest Service sites within Region 4 in the state of Utah. *These species are; Indian ricegrass, junegrass, muttongrass, needle and thread, Sandberg bluegrass, and squirreltail. These six perennial grasses are key species for restoration work within the Colorado Plateau Region.*

Species Adaptability Studies:

- Seed collections were made throughout the Colorado Plateau of all six grass species. Elevation, soil type and plant community relationships were keys in the collection effort. Known cultivars (if any) were also included in the study. The collection was refined down to 156 accessions to be compared on four sites.
- Four wildland study sites representing ecological conditions throughout the Colorado Plateau were identified and evaluated.
- Each forest (Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake and Manti LaSal) is represented.
- Each site was cleared of vegetation, fenced to exclude livestock and wildlife (2008), then labeled and planted during 2009.
- Climatic solar weather stations were installed at every location in 2011.
- Survival, plant vigor, forage biomass and seed production are all being recorded to evaluate and find the top performers for each species. Climatic data will be included in the assessment. A photo record of each species on each site is being assembled.



Year Awarded: 2007-2011

Project completion: 2016

Report number: 4 of 9

Expenditures:

- FY09 funding 160,000
Remaining 85,000
- FY10 funding 165,000
Spent 165,000
- FY 11 funding 142,000
Spent 142,000

Partners/Contractors/Coop: USFS Region 2 & Region 4, USDI BLM Colorado and Utah State Offices, Colorado Division of Wildlife and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in cooperation with the Great Basin Station, UT; Brigham Young Universities, Snow College, Southern Utah University.

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