

Deschutes National Forest Native Plant Restoration Program

2015 Accomplishments

Deschutes National Forest Native Plant Restoration Program continues to focus on developing/planting stock of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs for restoration projects. Funding is also used to test/clean/store seeds, develop contracts, plan revegetation projects, develop/track budgets, develop partnerships, further education about the benefits of using native plants, and training to further our knowledge of native plant restoration.

Seed and Propagule Propagation:

- Purchased 13 lbs. of genetically-local low beardtongue (*Penstemon humilis*) from Benson Farms.
- Under an existing contract with Benson Farms, received 13 lbs. sulphur-flower buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*), 10 lbs. glaucous beardtongue (*Penstemon euglaucus*), and 18 lbs. low beardtongue; extended this contract with a new Task Order to produce an additional 20 lbs. sulphur-flower buckwheat and 9 lbs. glaucous beardtongue.
- Ordered 350 grass and forb propagules for a 2016 restoration project with partners Discover Your Forest and Gilchrist School.

Restoration Projects:

- With Discover Your Forest and Bend High Life Skills Program, seeded the new SunLava paved path (*Bend/Ft. Rock*).
- Seeded Three Trails, Big Marsh North Canal and closed roads & trails in Odell/Browns Creek Watershed (*Crescent*).
- Planted forbs and grasses at the Deschutes Headquarters and Lava Lands Visitor Center (*Bend/Ft. Rock*).

Revegetation Planning and Monitoring:

- Monitored restoration projects including Soda Creek (in partnership with Trout Unlimited) and Little Deschutes River.
- Board member for Deschutes Basin Native Plant Seedbank.
- Collected southern beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*) to develop sedge beds at Clarno Hardwood Production Facility future restoration projects.
- Developed a revegetation plan for Diamond Peak Viewpoint Restoration on Highway 58.

Pollinator Conservation:

- Participated in USFS Region 6 Challenge Cost Share Project to collect seed of 5 forbs and 1 shrub to benefit native bees (including Sensitive western bumble bee), rufous hummingbird, and butterflies. Seed will be propagated for future restoration projects.
- The diversity of native plants at Deschutes Headquarters is a mecca for pollinators (*thanks to Charmane Powers, Bend/Ft. Rock Botanist*).



Figure 1. Bend/Ft. Rock employees planting willows, Soda Creek, Deschutes National Forest.



Fig. 2. Freshly collected Oregon sunshine (*Eriophyllum lanatum*) seed collected on Crescent District for the R6 Pollinator Challenge Cost Share Project.

Year Awarded: 2015

Expenditures: \$46,000 Total Funding

\$ 22,000 NFTM

\$19,000 NFWW

\$ 5,000 WFHF

Partners: Deschutes Basin Native Seedbank, Benson Farms, Clearwater Native Nursery, Dorena Genetic Resource Center, Clarno Hardwood Production Facility, Bend/LaPine and Gilchrist Schools.

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Fig. 3. Bend/Ft. Rock received 18 lbs. of lowly penstemon (*Penstemon humilis*), an important pollinator plant, via a contract with Benson Farms.



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