

# Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland Native Plant Restoration Program

## 2015 Accomplishments

The Ochoco 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 Production/Purchase:**

- Contracted with Benson Farms to produce 750 lbs. of blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*) seed.

### **Seed Collection:**

- Collected seeds of 19 shrubs, forbs, grasses and sedges through a Seed Collection Contract with Eastern Oregon Stewardship Service.
- Collected 6 lbs. of tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and 3 lbs. Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*) for future riparian restoration.

### **Restoration Planning, Monitoring & Implementation:**

- Planted 1,770 propagules for stream restoration of Trout and McKay Creeks; partnered with Powell Butte Charter School students to plant 75 willows and 100 cottonwood.
- Seeded 5 acres as part of a combination of treatments designed to help identify effective controls for invasive annual grasses on the CRNG.
- Assisted planting bluebunch wheatgrass as part of a genetic study.
- Worked with Madras High School Transition Program to grow milkweed and create a school pollinator garden.
- Assisted in creating a milkweed garden at Clarno Hardwood Facility.
- Seeded Jackson Creek Riparian Restoration project with blue wildrye, and Mt. Pisgah Communications Site and several timber sale projects with our Ochoco upland native grass seed mix.
- Mixed 4,000 lbs. of genetically local seed to create a seed mix for fire rehabilitation, timber sales and restoration (blue wildrye, prairie junegrass, squirreltail, Sandberg's bluegrass, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass).
- Board member for Deschutes Basin Native Plant Seedbank.

### **Pollinator Conservation:**

- Participated in USFS Region 6 Challenge Cost Share Project to collect seed of 6 forbs to benefit the western bumble bee, rufous hummingbird.



Figure 3. Golden currant (*Ribes aureum*) is one of 19 forbs, shrubs, and sedges collected for future restoration projects via a contract with Eastern Oregon Stewardship Services. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia.



Figure 1. Paulina Botanist, Jill Welborn, collecting tufted hairgrass and Nebraska sedge seed.



Fig. 2. Contracted with Benson Farms to produce 750 lbs. of blue wildrye seed. Photo by Matt Lavin, courtesy of Wikimedia.

**Year Awarded:** 2015

**Expenditures: \$30,000 Total Funding**

\$ 10,000 NFVW

\$ 20,000 NFTM

**Partners:** Clearwater Native Nursery, Madras and Powell Butte Schools, Crooked River Watershed Council, Benson Farms, Deschutes Basin Native Plant Seedbank, Clarno Hardwood Facility.

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