

Huron Manistee Native Plant Program

2007 Accomplishments

The Huron-Manistee National Forest is developing a source of native seed from local genotypes to facilitate the revegetation of fire scarred lands. A contract was awarded to a Michigan grower to collect big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) and little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) seed from the Huron National Forest and grow it as a crop.

Native Connections of Constantine, Michigan, was awarded the growing contract. The crew of Native Connections collected wild seed from the Mio Ranger District in 2006. As of October 10, 2007, the grower reported that the crop is in the field and that a small harvest would be ready by 2008. A better harvest would be available in 2009.



Figure 2: Native Connections bulk seed collector for larger patches of grass.



Figure 1: Native Connections worker collecting little bluestem fruit with scythe along Mack Lake Trail.

Year Awarded: 2006

Project completion: 2008

Report number: 2 of 2

Expenditures:

- FY06 funding \$55,490
- expend. \$40,318 (\$38,176 contract + \$2,303 salary)
- \$15,171 remaining
- FY07 funding \$0

Contractor:

Native Connections
Jerry Stewart (269)580-4765

Contact: Greg Schmidt, Mio RD
(989-826-3252)



USDA FOREST SERVICE
MIO RANGER DISTRICT
107 MCKINLEY ROAD
MIO, MI 48647