

NATIVE PLANTS

Pollinator species, rare plants

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) are committed to combatting invasive plants, particularly in newly disturbed areas. Heavy equipment is inspected prior to beginning work on the National Forests and Grassland and only weed-free hay and mulch is allowed. Partnerships with counties and local municipalities are an important tool to accomplishing this work.

► **Noble Energy** established a pollinator garden on the **Lillifield Pipeline** in Weld County as part of their restoration work last fall. The fenced area was seeded with plant species native bees and butterflies favor and will help provide a space for these native pollinators to thrive. This was a cooperative effort involving Pawnee National Grassland employees, the oil and gas industry, and the **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**.

► A botanical contractor for the ARP searched for and re-located a historic population of a **sensitive grass species** this summer near Cameron Peak on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District (CLRD). The site had not been observed for more than 50 years.

► In 2013, the ARP treated more than **6,000 acres of noxious weeds** across the ARP, more than doubling last year's accomplishment and ranking high for this accomplishment region-wide.

► As part of the **Native Plant Materials Program**, roughly 2,000 pounds of native grass seed was grown by contractors for use in revegetation and restoration projects across the Forest. Such seed was used in 2013 to aid rehabilitation following recent wildfires along the Front Range. The seed also was used around the new parking lots at **Berthoud Pass** and **Brainard Lake**, and may be used to help in upcoming flood recovery road rebuilding.

► Grants and partners provided funds and labor towards weed control and education projects including **Habitat Partnership Program**, **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**, **Grand County Wilderness Group**, **Winter Park Resort**, **Friends of Mt. Evans** and **Lost Creek Wilderness**, **Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance**, **Front Range Backcountry Horsemen**, **University of Colorado**, **Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado**, **TEENS Inc**, **Poudre Wilderness Volunteers** and **State and Private Cooperative Weed Management** funds.

► High Park Fire recovery progressed thanks to the formation of the 2013 **Poudre River Partnership**; a first-of-its-kind project to develop an interagency, collaborative noxious weed management plan to restore fire-affected lands.

► CLRD used Title II dollars from the **Secure Rural Schools Act** for weed management on National Forest System lands in Larimer County, monitoring and treating. Nearly **\$129,000** was used to hire a Larimer County crew to treat noxious weeds from 2011 to 2013.



Spotted fritillary, an uncommon early-blooming plant of sagebrush meadows on the Sulphur Ranger District.

PLANTS 2013FACTS

Did you know? *Most pharmaceutical drugs are derived from plants. For example, aspirin is salicylic acid, a derivative of willows.*



Spraying weeds in Wilderness with horses on Canyon Lakes Ranger District.