

Native Plant Program For Restoration and Rehabilitation

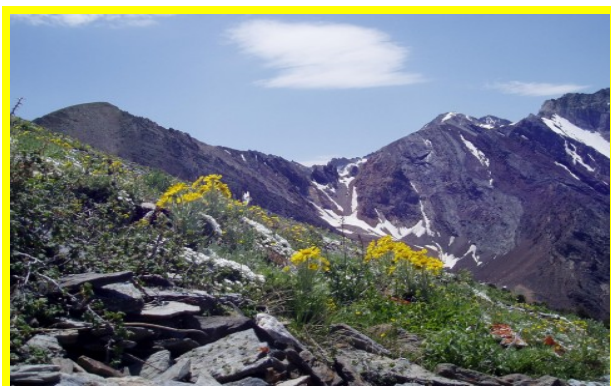
2006 Accomplishments

The Sawtooth Forest Plan (revised 2003) provides solid direction for using native plant materials. In 2005, the Sawtooth National Forest initiated a Native Plant Program using project dollars (\$8500.00). The Sawtooth NF contracted with Idaho Conservation Data Center (Idaho CDC) to begin preliminary delineation of seed zones, elevational bands, and collection protocols.

With the help of the Native Plant Materials funding, the Sawtooth National Forest was able to expand the original contract with Idaho CDC for seed and plant material collection and Lucky Peak Nursery for seed cleaning, storage and increase. Additionally, the Forest has a participating special use agreement with Conservation Seeding and Restoration in which 10 percent of all certified seed they collect on the Forest is given to the Native Plant Program.

To date, the Idaho CDC has collected over 355 lbs of native seed from 20 species. Collecting will continue over the next 2 growing seasons and Idaho CDC will provide at least 150 lbs per year of native seed and plant materials. Lucky Peak has cleaned and stored all materials collected. In 2006, 1 acre of native plant seed was planted for seed increase. An existing MO with the Nursery will allow for an additional acre to be planted in 2007.

As a result of the seed collection and seed increase afforded by this funding, the native plant program will greatly improve the rehabilitation of native plant communities that are affected by fuels reduction activities, prescribed fires and/or wildfires on the Sawtooth National Forest.



Restoration with natives promotes biodiversity and aids in soil retention and noxious weed prevention.



At each seed collection site, Idaho CDC collects environmental relations and associated species data on a 0.1 acre plot using standard ecology methods.

Year Awarded: 2006

Project completion: ongoing -2008

Report number: 1 of 3

Expenditures:

FY06 funding: \$47,490, contract: \$35,000 for collection for 3 collecting seasons; \$10,000 for seed cleaning, storage and planting 2 acres for seed increase at Lucky Peak Nursery

Partners/Contractors/Coop:

Idaho Conservation Data Center
Conservation Seeding and Restoration
Lucky Peak Nursery

Contact Person & phone number

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