

# Expanding Supplies of Native Plant Seed for Restoration on the Chugach National Forest

## 2008 Accomplishments

This project was initiated in 2004 to obtain native plant material from local genetic stock on the Chugach National Forest. The materials are for spot revegetation of slow to regenerate locations in burned areas, rehabilitation of areas where non-native invasive plant species have been removed, and other areas where planting of native plant species is called for to achieve revegetation objectives.

The Alaska Plant Materials Center (Palmer, Alaska) has been collecting and processing the plant materials (mostly seeds) under Sikes Act procurements extending through 9/30/2008. The focus of the seed collection is on early successional pioneers, primarily within the Kenai Peninsula portion of the Chugach National Forest.

In 2008, the Alaska Plant Materials Center conducted seed testing and production activities. During the spring of 2008, germination tests were done on 19 seed lots of 18 species collected in the fall of 2007. Germination rates ranged from 37% (Holy grass) to 98% (Bering hairgrass), with the average germination rate of 78% for all the seeds. Also in the spring, 17 species were planted in the greenhouse for future transplanting out in the field. During the summer of 2008 nine species of plants were transplanted in the field. Seed is currently being cleaned from the harvest of the increase plantings (Figure 1).

We will pursue opportunities to continue this work into 2009 and beyond.



Figure 1. Harvesting from increase planting in 2008 (PMC photo).



Figure 2. Containerized material for transplanting to field (PMC photo).

Year Awarded: initial award in 2004

Project completion: 2008

Report number: 5 of 5

Expenditures (through 10/2008):

- FY04 funding \$28,000; \$0 remaining
- FY05 funding \$19,000; \$0 remaining
- FY06 funding \$18,350; \$0 remaining
- Total funding \$65,350; \$0 remaining**

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Alaska Plant Materials Center (State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture).

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