

San Juan National Forest Native Plant Materials Program

2009 Accomplishments

Project Goal:

Severely degraded lands often support only weedy, usually exotic species. We believe it is plausible to restore self-sustaining native plant communities by reseeding with early successional, "weedy" native species. Therefore, the goal of this project is researching and developing economically viable techniques to produce crops of seed from early- and mid- successional native species. This project will help make it profitable for commercial seed companies to grow and offer these species for sale in the future.

Seed Collections:

In FY2009, we inventoried over twenty wildland collection sites, studied phenology of target species, and collected seeds from eight early successional species in conjunction with San Juan BLM. All seeds were sent to Seeds of Success Bend Seed Extractory. Seeds were cleaned and tested. A portion of each collection was preserved in their long-term storage facility and a portion will be sent back for increase.

Seed Increase:

Funds were obligated to Colorado State University (CSU) Southwestern Colorado Research Center to plant seed increase plots of early- and mid- successional species in late fall 2009. The Uncompaghre Project is also a partner. Seed yields are expected in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Data on propagation, cultivation, harvesting and use in reclamation will be collected for all species.

Reclamation Showcase Garden:

Funds were obligated for CSU to plant and maintain a reclamation showcase garden at the Mancos/Dolores Ranger District office site. This garden will help restore some degraded land at the office site and serve as a learning tool for agencies, researchers, and the local community. Construction will begin in late fall 2009.



Botanists checking for seed maturity of target species.



Seeds of woolly plantain, an early successional native forb we collected this year. Photo by Steve Hurst @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Year Awarded: 2009
Project completion: 2013
Report number: 1 of 3

Expenditures:

- FY09 funds received \$58,500
- FY09 obligated \$58,500

Partners/Contractors/Coop:

- Colorado State University
- San Juan BLM
- Uncompaghre Plateau Project
- Seeds of Success

Contact Person & phone number:

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