

# Custer National Forest Sioux and Ashland Ranger Districts Native Plant Recovery Project

## 2010 Accomplishments

2010 accomplishments included an extension of the Rabbit Creek Reservoir Riparian Enclosure Project that began in 2006. Native plant seed from prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), collected in 2009, was grown in seed increase plots. 1,500 green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) seedlings were grown at the Coeur d'Alene Nursery. In 2011 the cordgrass seed will be sown at the Rabbit Creek Reservoir site and the green ash seedlings will be planted along the riparian corridor and in lower segments of decadent woody draws. During August/September 2010, over 120 lbs of fruit from chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), silver buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*), hawthorn (*Crataegus succulenta*), and American plum (*Prunus americana*) were collected on the Sioux and Ashland Ranger Districts. Seedlings will be grown from this seed at the Coeur d'Alene Nursery for planting in 2011 and 2012. Restoring native grass and tree species to the site will not only provide a wild seed source for future projects, but will aid in stabilizing stream banks, filtering sediment, creating wildlife habitat, increasing water holding capacity, and fostering beaver introduction or natural recolonization. Given the amount of seed collected to date, grass seeding and shrub planting is anticipated to occur throughout the next decade.



Figure 2. American plum fruit.



Figure 1. Silver buffaloberry and hawthorn berries

Year awarded: 2010

Project completion: On-going

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures (through 9/30/10):

- **FY10 total funding received \$9,499 NFN3**
- **Total expenditures \$5,499 NFN3**

Partners/contractors/coop: South Dakota Game and Fish Department & USFS Coeur d'Alene Nursery

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