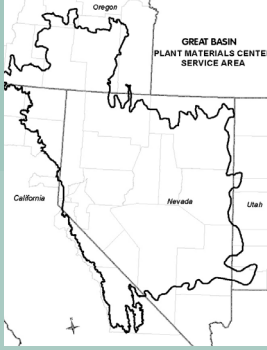


# Great Basin Plant Materials Center

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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## FACTS ABOUT THE GREAT BASIN PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

### **Mission Statement:**

Specialize in the collection, testing, and selection of native and adapted plant materials, cultural practices, and restoration and rehabilitation methods for resource concerns of the Great Basin.

The Great Basin PMC is the newest plant materials center, bringing the number of PMC's nationwide to 27.

The Great Basin PMC service area covers approximately 139,000 square miles, almost 89 million acres, in four states: Nevada, Oregon, California, and Utah.

### **More information can be found at:**

[www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov)  
[Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov](http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov)

### **Great Basin PMC address:**

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## Ag Day Held at PMC

In collaboration with the Lahontan Valley Environmental Alliance, an Ag Day event was held at the Great Basin Plant Materials Center on March 21, 2007. Local school children and members of the public visited the facility to learn about the Plant Materials Center, agriculture, wildlife, and the environment. Demonstrations of antique agricultural equipment were also presented during the event. The final event of the day was a tree planting ceremony with the Fallon Mayor Ken Tedford. Approximately 60 students from three classes participated with Mayor Tedford in the ceremony.



Antique farm equipment was demonstrated during Ag Day at the PMC.



New tractor arrives at the PMC.

## New Equipment for the PMC Helps Get the Job Done

Most of the priority farm equipment for the Great Basin Plant Materials Center (PMC) has been ordered and delivered. Equipment at the PMC includes a tractor (56 HP), 34-ft trailer, 16-ft trailer, disc, box scraper, cultivator, mower, vegetable drill, no-till drill, border disc, seedling transplanter, flail-vac, and sprayers. Equipment that has been ordered but not delivered includes a tractor (72 HP), plow, hay rake, baler, and rotary disc mower.

## New Construction Set to Begin

A cultural resources report has been developed for the Great Basin Plant Materials Center and the report has been reviewed by the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Comments by SHPO have been incorporated into the plans for new construction ensuring cultural resource concerns at the Plant Materials Center are properly addressed. After comments from SHPO were provided to Nevada NRCS, negotiations were initiated with contractors to expedite construction of new buildings. During 2007-2008, new construction will begin starting with a new shop, equipment cleaning pad, fueling station, chemical storage building, and petroleum product storage building. Long-term construction plans include an equipment shed, greenhouses, seed cleaning building, slat house, seed storage building, and a new office building.



An historic building at the entrance of the PMC is currently being used as a temporary office.

## On-going Projects

### Off-Center Projects Underway in Fallon, Minden and Winnemucca

The Great Basin PMC is involved with several ongoing studies located off the PMC. These include:

- **Abandoned Cropland:** Study near Fallon, Nev. to examine revegetation of abandoned cropland to reduce wind erosion and prevent establishment of noxious, invasive species. Partners include University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and Lahontan Conservation District.
- **Demonstration Garden:** A variety of grass, forb, and shrub species were planted as part of a demonstration garden to show the public some of the plants available for use when addressing conservation concerns. Partners include University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Douglas County Department of Parks and Recreation, and Carson Valley Conservation District.
- **Cheatgrass Revegetation:** Cheatgrass die off is occurring over large areas in the Great Basin, providing an opportunity to get desirable vegetation established and preventing the reestablishment of cheatgrass.



Revegetation of abandoned crop land being studied.

This study is being conducted in an area where cheatgrass die off has occurred near Winnemucca, NV. It is a joint project with the Bureau of Land Management and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.



Poplar trees are being tested for biofuel production.

### More Projects continue on the Farm

At the Great Basin PMC, there are currently two projects underway. The first is a study to evaluate 67 poplar varieties for their suitability as a biofuel source.

The second is a seed propagation project to produce 3,000 pounds of bottlebrush squirreltail. The seed will be used for restoring burned areas at Zion National Park.

## New Projects

### Revegetating Saltcedar Control Areas

In several areas of Nevada, leaf beetles have been released and have effectively reduced saltcedar density and cover. In collaboration with University of California Santa Barbara, the Great Basin PMC is conducting a study looking at revegetation of areas where saltcedar has been controlled by the leaf beetle. Revegetation in these areas is necessary to prevent invasive or noxious weeds, such as white top and knapweeds, and to enhance wildlife habitat.



Leaf beetle being used to control saltcedar.



Erosion control netting was placed on streambank to test seedling growth.

### Stabilizing Streambank Erosion

This past winter, two projects were initiated to study the use of vegetation to stabilize streambanks where erosion was causing the stream to encroach into agricultural fields. Five grass species were seeded to evaluate their potential for stabilizing the streambanks. Erosion control netting was placed on half of the plots to determine whether it would enhance seedling establishment by keeping seeds on site and by creating conditions conducive to seedling growth and survival. This project is being conducted in collaboration with the Mason Valley Conservation District.