

Coffee Point Off-Center Evaluation

In November 2006, Plant Materials Center personnel planted a large, multi-species, off-center evaluation planting at Coffee Point, 20 miles northwest of Aberdeen. The site is located on BLM land on an ecological site that historically supported a Wyoming big sagebrush - bluebunch wheatgrass plant community that receives an average of 8 to 12 inches annual precipitation. The evaluation planting includes 58 accessions of forbs, shrubs, and native and introduced grasses and is designed to test and determine which accessions may be best suited for rangeland seedings in low-precipitation sites in southern Idaho and northern Utah. Tested native species include basin wildrye; Sandberg bluegrass; bottlebrush squirreltail; bluebunch wheatgrass, Snake River wheatgrass, thickspike wheatgrass, western wheatgrass and slender wheatgrass; four shrubs; nine forbs and three introduced grasses. Evaluation of plant establishment and performance is underway and evaluations are planned through 2017 to determine long-term performance and survival of the test species.



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