

Abstract published in the proceedings and poster presented at the Society of Range Management annual meeting in Boise, ID, February 13-18, 2000.

Perception of Native Status: Implications for Rangeland Revegetation and Management. *Steven E. Smith*, School of Renewable Natural Resources, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721; and *Susan R. Winslow*, USDA-NRCS, Bridger Plant Materials Center, Bridger, MT 59014

Successful improvement and maintenance of rangeland ecosystems increasingly involves strategies that integrate not only economic and ecological considerations, but also political and social concerns. This integrated approach necessitates understanding the perspectives held by a wide array of stakeholders involved in decision-making processes. Use of native plants in rangeland reseeding represents one situation in which many stakeholders may be involved and their views are often poorly understood. One of the difficulties that may be encountered in such reseeding projects involves determination of the native status of plants to be utilized. We attempted to learn more about how individuals make this determination using a questionnaire distributed to members of native plant societies from throughout the United States. The questionnaire presented a reseeding project where the goal was to restore a natural grassland community on public land. Various scenarios were presented with each differing in the origin of the seed to be used in the project. For example, seed may come from plants located at varying distances from the project site, from a different soil, plant community, or state, or from sites that have been affected by grazing or previous reseeding. Respondents were asked whether they would consider the plants resulting from the seed to be non-native or native or if they were not sure. They were also allowed the opportunity to provide general comments on the questionnaire.