

Development of Native Grass Seed Source in Michigan's Northern Lower Peninsula – Huron-Manistee National Forests

2007 Accomplishments

Michigan native genotype grass seed from four warm season grass species big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) has been harvested and delivered to the two forests for 3 years now. Practices and policies have been implemented on the Districts to use Michigan genotype native seed (or plants) for all restoration uses, unless special, unusual circumstances exist where no native genotype seed is available for the circumstances the site requires.

Routine seeding of erosion sites, fire line restoration, recreation and trail rehabilitation sites, recreation area sites, campsite rotation seeding, contracted facility improvement projects, post fire seeding, rehabilitation after building removal and other similar projects used seed delivered from this project this year. Having the seed available on-site at the Districts has greatly enhanced the transformation to an all native genotype restoration policy implementation.

07 Delivery: 165 lbs pure live seed (PLS) Indian grass, 343 lbs. PLS little bluestem, 320 lbs PLS big bluestem, 150 lbs. PLS switchgrass. Seed harvested in 08 will be the final product for this grant.



Big and little bluestem, Indian grass and switchgrass for restoration of old fallow nursery seedbeds.

Year Awarded: 2004
Project completion: 2008
Report number: (4 of 5)

Expenditures:

- FY05 \$5,860
- FY06 \$10,425
- FY07 \$13,582
- Remaining \$22,833

Contractors: Gaia Grass
Native Connections
Michigan Wildflower Farm

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Native genotype grasses used in new ORV trailhead parking lot on the Baldwin RD.

Huron-Manistee National Forests
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