



Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland Botany Program Accomplishments 2007



Deschutes/Ochoco NF Contact

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Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plants

Several FY07 Accomplishments:

- Revisited Henderson's ricegrass (*Achnatherum hendersonii*) sites to begin monitoring population density (*Paulina*).
- Conducted bryophyte/lichen inventories on portions of 14 creeks on Lookout Mt. District with R6 ISSSSP funding; located several unique species.
- Ochoco and Deschutes NF Botanists and Prineville BLM Botanist coordinated in redesigning the monitoring protocol for the draft Peck's mariposa lily (*Calochortus longebarbatus* var. *peckii*) Conservation Strategy.



A view of scabland habitat where Wallowa ricegrass (*Achnatherum wallowaensis*) occurs, Lookout Mt. District, Ochoco National Forest.

Interesting Fact: Ricegrasses have flexible roots that allow them to deal with frost heaving which occurs frequently in their scabland habitats.

FY 2008 Goals: Establish monitoring plots for Peck's mariposa lily. Develop strategy to save *Achnatherum* species from invasive *Ventenata*!

Invasive Plants

Several FY07 Accomplishments:

- **Paulina District's** weed program was a collaborative effort integrating education, prevention, detection and control; funded by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Blue Mountain Elk Initiative, Regional Challenge Cost Share Program, and local wildlife, botany, and range programs. **Lookout Mt. District** employees joined forces with BLM Prineville District and Cove Palisades State Park to control invasive medusahead on The Island Research Natural Area.
- 590 acres of manual control by USFS personnel and partners, including Grant County Training and Employment Consortium, Northwest Youth Corps, and Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (*Paulina*).
- Completed 1,244 acres of invasive plant detection surveys (*Paulina*).
- Chemically treated sites in cooperation with Crook County Weed Control and Grant County Soil & Water Department, and 85 acres were treated on adjacent private land, funded by USFS in cooperation with the Crooked River Weed Management Area (*Paulina*).
- Completed 25 acres of biocontrol on Canada thistle using *Ceutorynchus litura* and *Urophora cardui*.

Interesting Fact: Montana State University Researcher, Kim Goodwin, has been training dogs to sniff out and detect spotted knapweed & dyer's woad. This early detection strategy may prove to be very effective for inventorying large areas with low density weed populations.

FY 2008 Goal: Implement the new Invasive Plant EIS & be able to finally employ an Early Detection/Rapid Response Strategy.



Northwest Youth Corps pulling invasive houndstongue, Paulina District, Ochoco National Forest, 2007.

Unique Habitats & Species; Partnerships

Several FY07 Accomplishments:

- Non-vascular surveys included inventorying a fen that has a suite of mosses typical of certain Canadian fens (Lookout Mt.)
- Ochoco NF, BLM Prineville District, and the Cover Palisades State Park teamed up to control invasive medusahead on The Island Research Natural Area. This RNA is managed cooperatively by the Crooked River National Grassland, Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon Department of State Parks.
- **FY07 Partners:** Agricultural Research Station (Burns, OR), Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Prineville BLM, NW Youth Corps, OR Youth Conservation Corps, Grant Co. Training & Employment Consortium, Crooked River Weed Management Area, Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation, Blue Mt. Elk Initiative, & Crook and Grant Counties.

Interesting Fact: Bryophyte/lichen surveys located new sites of two rare mosses in a Canadian-style fen on Lookout Mt.

FY 2008 Goal: Establish an RNA Team to improve our management of these special areas.



Ochoco NF, Prineville BLM, & Cove Palisades State Park employees controlling medusahead on The Island Research Natural Area, June 2007.

Native Plant Habitat Enhancement/Revegetation

Several FY07 Accomplishments:

- Purchased hot rock penstemon (*Penstemon deustus*) seed for rehabilitating disturbed areas (log landings, closed roads, firelines, etc.)
- Purchased 2,400 lbs. of blue wildrye seed (*Elymus glaucus*).
- Collected 6 pounds of heartleaf arnica seed (*Arnica cordifolia*) for field propagation testing.
- Through the Region 6 Native Grass & Forb Seed Production Contract, contracted for propagation of 600 lbs. of bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) and 200 lbs. of Sandberg's bluegrass (*Poa sandbergii*) to be harvested in 2008; and contracted for field testing propagation of heartleaf arnica seed that we collected this year.
- Collected seeds of Canby's biscuitroot (*Lomatium canbyi*; an important tribal plant) and rock buckwheat (*Eriogonum sphaerocephalum*) for nursery propagation. Plants will be propagated to improve wildlife habitat and enhance populations of a cultural plant used by local Native American Tribes.
- Contracted for production of 50 lbs. of silvery lupine (*Lupinus argenteus*) and 200 lbs. of prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*) for delivery in 2008.
- Planted 7 acres with native shrubs that were grown locally using 2005 Native Plant Initiative funding.

Interesting Fact: A successful revegetation technique for planting bottlebrush squirreltail is to bail the seeds together with the grass stems and apply the seeded bails directly to the site through straw blowing equipment, accomplishing seeding and mulching in one operation.

FY 2008 Goal: Host a Regional Revegetation Training to learn techniques in the new Roadside Revegetation Manual written for Western Federal Highways by our Regional Revegetation Team. The techniques can be applied to all types of disturbed habitats.



Bitterbrush and buckwheat seedlings grown by a local native plant nursery for planting in the Geneva Fire area, Crooked River National Grassland, spring 2007.



Planting native shrubs in Geneva 3 wildfire area, Crooked River National Grassland, March 2007.