

**USDI-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
STONES RIVER NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD**

FY2004 Annual Report

**Prepared by
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**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ALDERSON, WV PLANT MATERIALS CENTER**

INTRODUCTION –

The NPS, in managing the Stones River National Battlefield, has a need to preserve native plant resources and revegetate parklands. The NPS requires that revegetation of park lands utilize germplasm from within park boundaries where possible to maintain the genetic resources within the park. The NPS does not have the personnel, expertise, or equipment needed to propagate quantities of the required seed and plants.

The NRCS has the personnel and is equipped to propagate and clean quantities of seed sufficient to meet the NPS needs within the required time frame, and conduct evaluations on plant species to determine adaptation and cultural requirements for establishment.

The NPS has requested certain information and plant materials that are presently unavailable and is willing to reimburse the NRCS for the costs of obtaining such information and plant materials within the time frame specified in this agreement.

The NRCS has agreed to harvest seed from native species indigenous to Stones River National Battlefield, condition the seed, and produce seedling plugs to be used to establish permanent seed production fields at the park and/or at the Plant Materials Center. The species of interest are: *Sporobolus compositus* var. *compositus*, *Andropogon ternarius*, *Andropogon gyrans*, *Bouteloua curtipendula*, *Carex* spp., *Chasmanthium latifolium*, *Dichanthelium* spp., *Eragrostis spectabilis*, *Leersia virginica*, *Melica mutica*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Asclepias tuberosa*, *Aster* spp., *Eupatorium altissimum*, *Eupatorium coelestinum*, *Eupatorium serotinum*, *Lespedeza violacea*, *Rudbeckia* spp., *Solidago* spp., and *Forestiera ligustrina*.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS –

Fiscal year 2003 was the initiation year for this agreement. During 2003, NRCS personnel traveled to Stones River National Battlefield to become familiar with the park's ecological communities, identify prime seed collection locations for the nineteen species of interest, and to assess appropriate seed collection techniques and optimum harvest times. Several late summer seed collection trips netted small (less than 0.5 pounds) quantities of seeds from thirteen species. All seed was collected by hand stripping methods. The thirteen species represented in the 2003 seed harvest are: *Sporobolus compositus* var. *compositus*, *Andropogon ternarius*, *Andropogon gyrans*, *Chasmanthium latifolium*, *Dichanthelium* spp., *Eragrostis spectabilis*, *Leersia virginica*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Aster drummondii*, *Lespedeza violacea*, *Rudbeckia hirta*, *Rudbeckia triloba*, and *Solidago nemoralis*.

In 2004, the Alderson Plant Materials Center produced approximately 20,000 seedlings from the 2003 seed harvest. The seedlings were mechanically transplanted into tilled fields at Stones River National Battlefield to establish seed production fields. Natural Resources staff at Stones River National Battlefield will harvest and use seed from these fields to restore and

maintain this historic site's circa 1862 floristic authenticity.