

CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT
1996 Annual Report
prepared by
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ABERDEEN IDAHO PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

INTRODUCTION

The Aberdeen Plant Materials Center (PMC) entered into an agreement with Craters of the Moon National Monument in 1993 to produce seed and plants of native plant species for revegetation purposes and to develop propagation methods. This agreement was in effect through 1996.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In early January, propagation of rubber rabbitbrush *Chrysothamnus nauseosus* accession no. 9067522 and antelope bitterbrush *Purshia tridentata* accession no. 9067521 began in the greenhouse to augment plant production from the previous year. Propagation of sulphurflower buckwheat *Eriogonum umbellatum* accession no. 9067517 and big sagebrush *Artemesia tridentata* accession no. 9067523 also began in January. The plants were maintained in the greenhouse until mid-August when they were moved outside to a temporary lathhouse to harden. During the week of October 8, the following amounts of plants were delivered to the monument:

Accession no.	Scientific name	Common name	# Containers
9067517	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	sulphurflower buckwheat	760
9067521	<i>Purshia tridentata</i>	antelope bitterbrush	3000
9067522	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	rubber rabbitbrush	3000
9067523	<i>Artemesia tridentata</i>	big sagebrush	300
		Total	7060

All seed collected from the Monument and stored at the PMC was also returned to the Park Service.

On October 15, 1996 Loren St. John from the PMC provided training to the planting crew at the Monument in proper transplanting techniques and provided guidance in care of the plants after planting.

Needleandthread *Stipa comata* accession no. 9067516 seed was harvested from Field 3 on June 25, and July 1. 2.9 pounds (clean weight) were produced. Because seed production has been far below expected levels, it was mutually decided to lift the plants from Field 3 in the spring of 1997 and transport them to the Monument for transplanting.

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS

The PMC developed a planting tool to be used in the loose cinders in which many of the plants were transplanted. The tool is a modified planting bar which is shoved into the cinders forming a hole approximately 10 inches deep and 2.5 inches in diameter. A sleeve surrounding the bar prevents cinders from collapsing back into the planting hole while the plant is transplanted. Due to the heavy weight of the planting tool (approximately 25 pounds), needed to penetrate many of the planting sites to a depth of 10 inches, the planting tool did not work as well as expected.

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