

Development of Seed Transfer Zones through Common Garden Studies in Region One

2008 Accomplishments

In 2008 Region One initiated a multi-year project to develop seed transfer zones for core native revegetation species. The R1 Common Garden Study will contribute to our understanding of genetic variation in selected revegetation species within their range in Region One. The results of the study will be used to develop seed transfer guidelines for Forest Service System lands in Region One as well as adjacent areas. Results will also be used to compare native genotypes to “restoration cultivars”.

During the 2008 field season, R1 forests and grasslands conducted wildland seed collection for two revegetation species, Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) and bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*). Field evaluations for these two species will be conducted by the Coeur d’Alene Nursery from 2009 to 2010. The study is being conducted in cooperation with the regional geneticist.



Figure 1.. Common garden studies for the two native grass species will involve grass plug establishment followed by multi-year evaluations under field conditions.



Figure 2. Seed collected from core native grass species will be grown out as grass plugs at the Coeur d’Alene Nursery.

Year awarded: Initial award in 2008

Project completion: 2010

Report number: 1 of 3

Expenditures (through 10/2008):

- FY08 funding \$100,000.
- Expended \$100,000. \$0 remaining

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Coeur d’Alene Nursery

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