

# Restoration of Black Hills Montane Grassland Sites: 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase

## 2008 Accomplishments

In 2007 Black Hills National Forest partnered with Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) – Rapid City to restore montane grasslands and initiate development of a native plant materials program for the Black Hills region. Black Hills montane grasslands are an endemic, wildflower-rich plant community the extent of which has been severely decreased with Euro-American settlement. It is one of the most endangered vegetation types in the Black Hills.



*Preparing plugs for planting at restoration site.*

- Plugs of montane grassland species grown at Bessey Nursery from seed collected in FY07 were planted in a restoration site.
- Initial monitoring observations of the restored site were recorded
- Plugs were also planted at the Native Plant Materials site at RMRS. This will be used as an increasing site for local seed as well as a demonstration plot for educating the public, commercial growers, and others regarding possible partner involvement.
- Additional seed was collected for further research and future restoration needs.
- RMRS lab cleaned collected seed.
- Seed was sent to Bessey Nursery for growing into plugs.
- South Dakota State University received seed for testing by a graduate student, funded by RMRS. One goal of this work is to determine the best species for different revegetation purposes.
- Additional funding will be sought in 2009 for planting plugs at the RMRS Native Plant Materials site and collecting seed to be sent to the regional plant materials centers to further increase and process seed for future restoration needs.

The long-term goal of these initial efforts is to establish a permanent native plant materials program for revegetation and restoration projects on public and private lands in the Black Hills.

**Year Awarded:** 2008

**Project completion:** 2009

**Report number:** 1

**Funding:** FY08 \$14,000

**Expenditures:**

- Planting & care of sites \$4,000
- Seed collecting/cleaning \$3,000
- Supervisory time \$2,000
- Grow seed for plugs \$5,000

**Partners:**

- Rocky Mountain Research Station
- USFS Bessey Nursery
- Great Plains Native Plant Society
- South Dakota State University

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*Cleaning seed with the seed blower at RMRS.*



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