



Reseeding After the 2006 Fires

Conservation Practice Information Sheet

(WAPMC 2006)

Seed Mix Options for the Columbia Complex Wildfires

Introduction

The 2006 Columbia Complex Wildfires burned over 100,000 acres of native range, forestland, cropland, pastures, and home & cabin sites. Some of the land experienced prolonged exposure to hot fire conditions and will need to be revegetated to prevent weed infestations and soil erosion.

Seed Availability in Fall 2006

Seed availability of some the premier revegetation species is very low. Large seed orders made in early 2006 depleted stocks of a number of plant species. Seed production was low in certain seed producing areas such as the Dakotas.

A little "shopping" is suggested. Seed not available at Seed Company X may be available at Seed Company Y.

Plant Quality Seed

Seed quality can vary dramatically between lots. Certified seed is highly recommended. If Certified Seed is not available, purchase seed that meets germination and purity requirements of Certified Seed. Always check the seed tag. Noxious weed seeds, low germination percentages, and seed test dates over 12 months old are red flags.

Recommended Seed Mix Option #1 for the Moister Areas

	<u>PLS*</u>
SPRING WHEAT	15
BLUEBUNCH, SNAKE RIVER OR CRESTED WHEATGRASS	5 - 7
IDAHO FESCUE	2 - 3
MOUNTAIN BROME 'BROMAR'	1 - 3
+++ (add for wildlife if desired) +++	
ALFALFA, CLOVER OR SMALL BURNETTE	0.5 - 2

Recommended Seed Mix Option #2 for the Moister Areas

	<u>PLS*</u>
SPRING WHEAT	15
BLUEBUNCH, SNAKE RIVER OR CRESTED WHEATGRASS	5 - 7
IDAHO FESCUE	2 - 3
ORCHARDGRASS	4
+++ (add for wildlife if desired) +++	
ALFALFA, CLOVER OR SMALL BURNETTE	0.5 - 2



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Recommended Seed Mix Option #1 for the Drier Areas

	<u>PLS*</u>
SPRING WHEAT	15
BLUEBUNCH, SNAKE RIVER OR CRESTED WHEATGRASS	5 - 7
IDAHO FESCUE	2 - 3
SLENDER WHEATGRASS	1 - 3
+++ (add for wildlife if desired) +++	
ALFALFA, CLOVER OR SMALL BURNETTE	0.5 - 2

Recommended Seed Mix Option #2 for the Drier Areas

	<u>PLS*</u>
SPRING WHEAT	15
BLUEBUNCH, SNAKE RIVER OR CRESTED WHEATGRASS	5 - 7
IDAHO FESCUE OR 'SHERMAN' BIG BLUEGRASS	2 - 3
SLENDER WHEATGRASS	1 - 3
+++ (add for wildlife if desired) +++	
ALFALFA, CLOVER OR SMALL BURNETTE	0.5 - 2

*PLS = PURE LIVE SEED

Example:

$PLS = \% \text{ Germination} \times \% \text{ Purity} / 100$

Say you need 4# of PLS seed/acre. On the seed tag you obtain the germination and purity information for that particular species. Say it has a germination of 89% and a purity of 99.8%.

$PLS = 89\% \times 99.8\% / 100 = 89\% \text{ PLS}$

Thus 89% of the weight of this bag will give you live seed of that cultivar. You will need to purchase - $4\# / .89 = 4.5\#$ bulk to get 4# of live seed/acre.