

Progress Report – 08S232
Annual Report – 2001
By: Dr. Gary L. Noller

**DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT
PLANT MATERIALS AGREEMENT**

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INTRODUCTION:

This report covers the activities conducted by the Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center, Meeker, Colorado, for the Dinosaur National Monument Plant Materials Agreement in 2001. The agreement was initiated in September of 1996 and was amended in August 1997. It involves collecting and increasing five grass species native to Dinosaur National Monument. One grass seed field was removed so that the agreement now involves four grasses. These grasses will be used for restoration and to reduce the occurrence of non-indigenous weedy plants found in the National Monument. Dinosaur personnel made one trip to the plant center in 2001. During this trip, seed of alkali sacaton and bluebunch wheatgrass collected in the monument and cleaned at the center was returned to the monument. Seed of bluebunch wheatgrass was later returned to the plant center for planting an increase to the seed field in 2001.

TARGETED SPECIES OF GRASS:

Common Name	Number	Scientific Name (Old)
Western wheatgrass	9070955	<i>Pascopyron smithii</i> (<i>Agropyron smithii</i>)
Indian ricegrass	9070953	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
Great basin wildrye	9070951	<i>Leymus cinereus</i> (<i>Elymus cinereus</i>)
Bluebunch wheatgrass	9070952	<i>Psuedoroegneria spicata</i> <i>ssp. spicata</i> (<i>Agropyron spicatum</i>)
Alkali sacaton	9070954	<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>
Sand dropseed	(not collected)	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>
Salina wildrye	(not collected)	<i>Leymus salinus ssp. salinus</i> (<i>Elymus salinus</i>)

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SEED COLLECTION AND CONDITIONING INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION:

No additional seed was collected from Dinosaur National Monument for seed production at the plant center in 2001.

SEED PRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION:

Seed fields were planted on November 5 and 6, 1997 and one additional field was added on July 20, 1998. In addition, one seed field (western wheatgrass) was removed in 1999, reducing the number of seed fields to four. Two seed fields (Indian ricegrass and alkali sacaton) were interseeded in 1999, to improve stands. When the bluebunch wheatgrass field was examined in May 2001, it was noted to be dry. The field was watered within a few days and then turned gray in color (early to mid June). The field was watered again in late June, but did not improve in appearance until late summer or early fall, and then did not look healthy. Only a few seed heads developed and the field was not harvested. A dry period from April through July was recorded in 2001, which may have contributed to the fields' poor appearance, but was not considered to be the only factor. We do not know why the field looked poor and produced no seed. An additional planting of bluebunch wheatgrass was planted in 2001. The seed fields were inspected (see attachments) by the Colorado Seed Growers in 2001, which helps the plant center provide a quality product to Dinosaur National Monument. The following updated the seed fields through 2001.

1. Indian ricegrass - November 5, 1997 - planted 8 rows (0.24 acre) - field 4 - planted at rate of about 30 seeds per foot of row - total seed lot (1.42 lb) used. Harvested light seed crop (52.0 g), September 8, 1998 - moderate to good stand November 20, 1998. Harvested July 14, 1999, produced 1.24 lb clean seed. Harvested July 3, 2000, produced 0.97 lb clean seed. Harvested July 9, 2001, produced 0.69 lb clean seed.
2. Bluebunch wheatgrass - November 5, 1997 - planted 8 rows (0.24 acre) - field 1 - planted at rate of about 30 seeds per foot of row - had few seed heads 1998, no harvest - good stand November 20, 1998. Harvested July 20, 1999, produced 16.5 lb clean seed. Harvested July 12, 2000, produced 1.4 lb clean seed. Not harvested in 2001. November 16, 2001, planted 6 rows (0.18 acre) at a rate of about 30 seeds per foot of row (0.35 lb planted), field 1, just south of original planting.
3. Western wheatgrass - November 6, 1997 - planted 8 rows (0.24 acre) - field 6A - planted at rate of about 20 seeds per foot of row, due to small quantity of seed and rhizomatous habit of species. Noted some off type plants in 1998, will rouge these out in 1999 - few seed heads 1998, no harvest - excellent stand with numerous sprouts November 20, 1998. Field had numerous off type plants 1999, field plowed.

Progress Report – 08S232

Annual Report – 2001

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4. Basin wildrye - November 6, 1997 - planted 8 rows (0.24 acre) - field 8A - planted at rate of about 30 seeds per foot of row. Few seed heads fall 1998, no harvest - excellent stand November 20, 1998. Harvested August 5, 1999, produced 29.0 lb clean seed. Harvested July 25, 2000, produced 2.4 lb of clean seed. Harvested July 17, 2001, produced 10.8 lb of clean seed.

5. Alkali sacaton - July 20, 1998 - planted 6 rows (0.18 acre) - field 4 - planted at a rate of about 30 seeds per foot of row - noted seedlings on September 2, 1998 - fair stand November 20, 1998. Harvested September 1, 1999, produced 99 grams of clean seed. Harvested two seed crops in 2000 (July 12 and September 11), produced 2.4 lb clean seed. Harvested two seed crops in 2001 (July 18 and September 14) produced 13.0 lb of clean seed.

SEED SHIPMENTS:

Seed was only provided to Dinosaur once in 2001, and this seed was collected in the monument and cleaned at the plant center.

SUMMARY:

1. A cooperative agreement between Dinosaur National Monument and the Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center was initiated in September of 1996 and amended in August of 1997.
2. The agreement involved the collection, evaluation and increase of five grasses native to Dinosaur National Monument. Only four seed fields are now grown for seed production.
3. Seed fields were planted in November 1997 for four contract species and the final seed field (alkali sacaton) was added in July 1998.
4. The western wheatgrass seed field was plowed in 1999, due to numerous off type plants, which reduced the number of seed fields to four.
5. Two seed fields (Indian ricegrass and alkali sacaton) were interseeded in 1999, to improve stands.
6. Seed crops were harvested from three seed production fields in 2001, and one field (alkali sacaton) was harvested twice.
7. The bluebunch wheatgrass seed field produced no seed in 2001. A new planting was done in 2001.