



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
Seeds of Success
 Category: Habitat Restoration

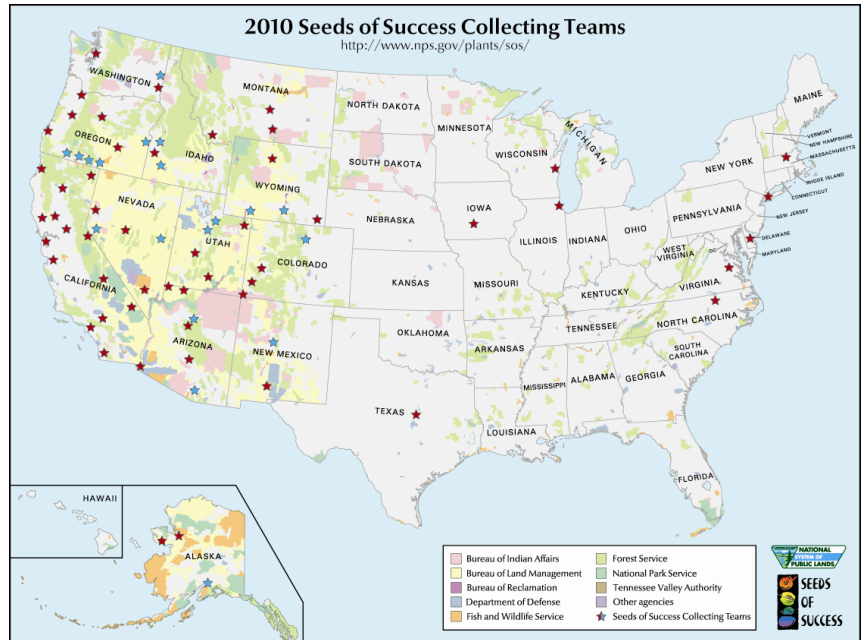
BLM
 Washington D.C.

“Seeds of Success” Program Preserves Native Seed for Many Uses

ARRA funding of \$1.26 million has made it possible for the Chicago Botanic Garden and the BLM to hire 44 new interns, mostly age 25 and under, to collect and preserve native seeds under the successful *Seeds of Success* program. The new interns join hundreds of *Seeds of Success* collectors around the country to collect seeds and preserve plant diversity before it is lost. Native seed banking is increasingly important in a changing climate. Native seeds help maintain and restore resilient plant communities that provide the foundation for fish, wildlife and pollinator habitats that are ultimately essential to the ecological services we depend upon.

The ARRA-funded interns are part of the Conservation and Land Management Internship Program of the Chicago Botanic Garden in partnership with the BLM (and other Federal Agencies). The program’s goal is to place recently graduated college students into various BLM and other Federal Agency offices throughout the West to collect seeds from local native plant communities.

The BLM leads the *Seeds of Success* program under the Congressionally-mandated Native Plant Materials Development Program. These programs represent federal and non-federal organizations that have a shared interest in collaborating to collect, conserve, and develop native seed by working with the seed industry. This is especially important because the native plant materials needed for restoration are not available today.



Seeds of Success began in 2000 with an agreement between the BLM and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew’s Millennium Seed Bank in England. It has expanded from a few BLM teams to a nationwide network of 85 teams. The program has made over 10,000 collections and seed banked over 10 percent of all U.S. flora. This material is being used in research projects for development of native seed for restoration, such as germination and growing trials. A portion of all collections go to USDA Agricultural Research Service’s long-term seed storage facilities.

Collections have been made from BLM lands as well as National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, Department of Defense lands, The Nature Conservancy’s lands and multiple state and local lands. Nongovernmental *Seeds of Success* partners have made significant collections, contributing non-federal matching funds of more than \$6 million. The ARRA funding is helping to launch the careers of the next generation of conservation leaders, providing hands on field experience and contributing to a lasting legacy of ecological preservation.

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U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

