

Native Plants Program Development on the San Bernardino National Forest, California

2011 Accomplishments

Goal

Retain and continue development of the San Bernardino NF-wide Native Plants Program and continue partnerships to supply materials for ecological restoration projects despite staff reductions to forest budget. We leveraged internal partner funds as well as external partner grant funds. Much of our work involved restoring lands affected by winter storm damage and resupplying our seed cache.

Accomplishments

- 30 acres of montane meadow stabilization/planting;
- 15 acres OHV staging area slope stabilization/seeding;
- 15 acres decommissioned route revegetation;
- 5 acres air curtain destructor site revegetation;
- 2 acres native plant garden replanting;
- Collected grass seed from seed increase beds;
- Collected 7 species of forb and shrub seed;
- Collected 10 lbs native grass seed (3 species);
- Propagated plants for 9 other projects;
- Began propagation of sedges and rushes;
- Propagated/out-planted willow, elderberry and rose;
- Re-established partnership for seed increase

Participation in other native plants projects

- Continued R5 Ski Slope reclamation Project
- Presented at the Native Seed Production for Restoration, Hedgerows, & Cover Crops within Southern California Ecoregions Workshop and the Mojave Desert Reclamation Workshop
- Conducted greenhouse tour for local college students
- Attended the Desert Manager's Restoration Workshop

Snow Valley Ski Area Erosion Control Project

Completed 3 acres of erosion control activities through full soil restoration treatment and native revegetation. Worked with ski area manager to complete physical soil treatments (wood chip amendment and tilling) to increase water infiltration, collected and cleaned 10 lbs. of seed of 2 native grass species for planting on site, prepared a variety of seed mixes and seeded 40 lbs. of 15 species to test establishment rates. Created native "sod" by planting strips of 350 containers of 9 perennial species and 2,800 plugs of native grasses. Utilized pine needle and straw mulch to test germination effects on seeded sites and effectiveness for erosion control. Protected sites from bird herbivory by installing moving flagging and irrigated to promote summer germination of seed and sustained growth of potted materials. Left some wood chip amended strips unseeded to test effectiveness of this treatment alone. Improved over 10 acres of terrestrial habitat, enhanced rare plant habitat and reduced sediment flow into nearby Deep Creek, an eligible Wild and Scenic River, wild trout stream and Critical Biological Land Use Zone.



Figure 1. Redonda Meadow Restoration. In Year 3, water became perennial in formerly dry channel, riparian vegetation established and planted materials survived.

Year Awarded: FY2011

Expenditures (FY2011): \$45,000

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators/Partners:
SBNFA Children's Forest, California State University, San Bernardino; MT YCC crew; Twin Pines Boy's Ranch; Green Thumb Volunteers; National Wild Turkey Federation; Porter's Firewood; Kenayan Construction; Snow Valley, Bear Mountain, and Snow Summit Ski Resorts. External & Internal Contributions (\$151,000)
Targets: NFN3:10 acres HBT-ENH-TERR ski area; Other blis = NFN3 meadow work; S&W-RSRC-IMP 30 acres, HBT-ENH-TERR 30 acres. Other projects: HBT-ENH-TERR 37 acres



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