



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

ABERDEEN PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

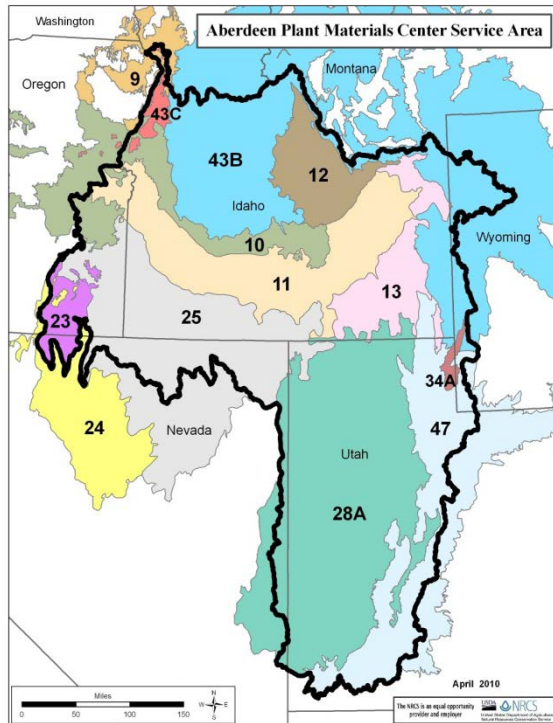


INTERMOUNTAIN PLANT NOTES

A newsletter to inform you about activities at the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center

The Aberdeen Plant Materials Center (PMC) was established in 1939 to develop plant materials and techniques for establishment and management of plants for use in resource conservation activities in the Western United States. There are 27 Plant Materials Centers nationwide, each serving specific geographic and ecological areas. The Aberdeen PMC service area covers 83 million acres of the Intermountain West encompassing southern Idaho, western Utah and parts of northern Nevada, western Wyoming and eastern Oregon.

Materials Committee is a collateral assignment for field office staff that have an interest in plant materials. Plant Materials Committee members oversee Plant Materials field trials in their service area and provide data back to the Plant Materials Center and PM Specialist as well as providing valuable advice to the PMC on resource concerns and plant materials needs. Plant Materials committee members are a beneficial resource that can offer local expertise to field offices and land owners in their area based on a firsthand knowledge of plant materials they have tested.



PMC service area map with overlay of Major Land Resource Areas (MLRAs).

Idaho

Ken Roberts, Bonners Ferry

Ken Roberts, Soil Conservationist at Bonners Ferry comes from the mean streets of Richmond, California, in the San Francisco Bay Area, just north of Oakland and Berkeley. Despite being a 'city boy', his family never missed an opportunity to go camping, hunting, and fishing together, fostering a love of the outdoors and a desire for a career working with natural resources. He studied at Humboldt State University and worked with the US Forest Service and BLM in California. Ken moved to the Bonners Ferry field office six years ago where he worked with District Conservationist Mike Gondek, a passionate supporter of the plant materials program. He says, "I became a PMC representative for Division 1 because a little bit of Mike rubbed off on me (there's a thought). But if I can be even half as good a representative as Mike was, I feel like I'll be doing a good job."

Aubrey Woodcock, Coeur d'Alene

Aubrey Woodcock is currently the District Conservationist in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. She has been with the agency for four years. She grew up in St. Anthony Idaho and attended the University of Idaho where she studied rangeland management. She says, "It's been a small passion of mine to be able to restore degraded sites and learn which plant species and varieties are most suitable for that area. I enjoy being in the outdoors, whether it's hiking, fishing, hunting, or camping!!!"

Meet the Plant Materials Committee

For this issue of Intermountain Plant Notes, we wanted to introduce our readers to the Plant Materials Committee members. The Plant

Amber Brocke, Orofino

Amber is the Orofino, Idaho District Conservationist. She originally comes from Kendrick, Idaho. She has been with NRCS for five years and has also worked with the Forest Service on a fire crew and a timber crew. Her work primarily focuses on range, center pivot irrigation systems, riparian, etc., but she is also very interested in pollinator habitat, riparian plantings, and establishing species on harsh sites. “I started to have a real interest in native plants and restoring areas to their historical state once I started working for NRCS. It has been fun to educate landowners on what species are available for site restorations, whether native or not, and also implementing trials to evaluate what species work the best for different sites. It is very rewarding to have a landowner who is interested in trying different species to help them reach their conservation goals.”

Sydney Yuncevich, Grangeville

Sydney is the Rangeland Management Specialist in Grangeville, Idaho. Sydney brings a wealth of knowledge to the Plant Materials Committee with 11 years working for the NRCS, 10 years with BLM in California, and 2 years with the USFS in Arizona. She is currently conducting plant materials trials evaluating the performance of selected plant releases in rangelands infested with annual grasses like Ventenata and Medusahead.

Rusty Norrie, Weiser

Rusty Norrie, Rangeland Management Specialist in Weiser, Idaho, has been with the agency for the last seven years. Rusty comes to us from Perkins, Oklahoma where he spent time as a Hunting Lease Agent for Oklahoma and Kansas. His current work focuses on rangeland (grazing systems). His interest in plant materials involves demonstration projects of forages. He is also involved in advanced evaluation trials testing bacteria to combat annual weedy grasses.

Connie Tharp, Mountain Home

Connie Tharp is the District Conservationist in Mountain Home, Idaho. She has been with the agency for 23 years! She has a diverse workload but her main focus is range and cropland (dryland and Irrigated). Her interest in plant materials includes finding new varieties of forage grasses for semi-arid climates. “Life isn’t about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain.”

Eric Moore, Gooding

Eric Moore has been with the NRCS for 33 years! The first nineteen years were spent as a Soil Conservation Technician, and the rest as a Soil Conservationist and all in southern Idaho. He is currently serving in Gooding, Idaho, but is looking forward to a well-earned retirement. “While I still love what I do, and value the purpose and praise the work that NRCS and the PMC in particular does, and am totally encouraged by recent developments in pollinator habitat and cover crops for soil health, I plan on retiring soon and feel confident that this necessary work will be left in capable hands.” Eric recently went back to school parttime and plans to head to Moscow/Pullman to complete a Master’s degree in Food Security after a few months overseas. Good luck Eric!

Nate Matlack, Fort Hall

Nate is the Tribal Liaison for NRCS stationed in Fort Hall, Idaho. Nate originally comes from Riverton, Wyoming and has been with NRCS for 8 years with previous experience as a Forest Service range technician. His focus is primarily rangeland where he enjoys testing different plant materials to improve production.



Native plant demonstration plots at the Fort Hall field office.

Steve Schyler, Twin Falls

Steve Schyler is the District Conservationist in Twin Falls originally hailing from Filer, Idaho. While conversion from gravity irrigation to sprinkler has been most of his workload, he has also been working with people in his area on Soil Health. “I have planned and monitored many types of plantings and it’s good to see them at maturity and the benefits they yield. Now we’re beginning to use cover crops and there is much to learn but it’s exciting.”

Cameron Williams, Soda Springs

Cameron Williams is the Soil Conservationist in Soda Springs, Idaho. He has been with us for 13 years having also worked in Idaho Falls. Cameron grew up in Grace, Idaho and is a true cowboy with plenty of ranching experience. He has also worked for FSA and even mined calcite. His current area of focus is dryland and irrigated forage crops. His interest with plant materials includes finding crops to extend the grazing seasons both in early green up and crops that can be stockpiled and used for winter feeding. "I'm interested in seeing new things grow and how they can be utilized and the potential benefit that can be provided."

Rosana Reith, Challis

Rosana Reith, Rangeland Management Specialist in Challis, Idaho, has been with the agency for the last three years. She is relatively new to the agency but has also worked as a riparian area monitoring intern with the Custer SWCD and as an NRCS SCEP student. She works in a very diverse field office where she helps implement conservation on rangelands, irrigated hayland, and riparian/streambank restoration projects. She has always had an interest in the plant materials program. "What better way to help get conservation on the ground than by developing and testing plant varieties that can help combat some of our most critical natural resource concerns."

Jesse Fullmer, Idaho Falls

Jesse Fullmer works as the Soil Conservationist in his home town of Idaho Falls. Like many Idahoans he enjoys fishing and hunting and spending time outdoors. He has been with the NRCS for seven years and spends his days working primarily on rangeland but also enjoys riparian and wetland projects.

Utah

Danny McBride, Area 1

Danny McBride is the Utah Area 1 Resource Conservationist and currently serves as the Civil Rights Chairman for Utah NRCS. Area 1 covers the northern 11 counties of the state from Wyoming to Nevada and Utah County to the Idaho line. He has worked for the NRCS for 5 years as a Resource Conservationist and now the Area Resource Conservationist. His prior employment includes the Utah Association of Conservation Districts as a planner and technician across numerous counties and offices in Northern Utah. He has also worked

for Utah State University Extension and an agronomy consulting firm in Southern Idaho. "My main passion is agronomy, soil health, nutrient management, and working with Animal Feeding Operations. But, being the Area Resource Conservationist I get to be involved with everything such as pollinators, range, riparian, forestry, irrigated cropland, orchards, dry cropland, and more."

Dean Stacy, Price

Dean Stacy moved to Price, Utah in 2001 from Laramie, Wyoming where he obtained bachelors and master's degrees in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management. "My emphasis in college was restoration ecology/reclamation." Dean previously worked with a private consulting firm where his main duties included T&E inventories for both animals and plants. "I also wrote EA's for oil and gas activities in eastern Utah." He spent five years as a field office Range Management Specialist and later moved into his current position of Area Range Management Specialist. Dean's interest in the Plant Materials program stems from his interest in restoration ecology/reclamation and utilizing the work that has been done at the PMCs and using it on the ground to restore disturbed areas.



Dean on the back of a drill seeder making sure everything flows properly.

Jim Spencer, Roosevelt

Jim Spencer was born and raised in Colonia Dublán, Chihuahua, México and currently serves as the Utah Area 3 Wildlife Biologist. He has been with the NRCS for the last eleven years. Prior to coming to work for the NRCS, Jim was a biologist with a private consultant company in the Midwest. His areas of focus include wildlife, wetlands, and plants. His work on the Plant Materials Committee involves the promotion of native plant materials for

release to the public. Jim loves to fish, and moonlights extracting honey for a local beekeeper in the fall.

Burke Davenport, Fillmore

Burke Davenport comes from Summit, Utah and is the Range Management Specialist in Fillmore, Utah. Burke has been with the NRCS for eight years. Prior to that, Burke worked with the ARS in Logan, Utah where he helped developing releases of forage kochia and other range plants. He serves with the Plant Materials Committee in trying to find plant materials that are adapted to range conditions in western Utah.

Lars Rasmussen, Fillmore

Lars Rasmussen is the District Conservationist in Fillmore, Utah. He has quite a history having spent 12 years as a Range Conservationist in Richfield Utah, Ellensburg Washington, and Roosevelt, Utah and the last 22 years as a District Conservationist in Fillmore. Lars has been a tremendous supporter of plant materials over the years. His passions include his family (married 35 years, 8 children, and 13 grandchildren), religion, hunting, fishing, and farming.

Public Information Activities

New, Revised or Updated PM Technical Notes

- Tech. Note 2c. Plant Materials for Pollinators and other Beneficial Insects in Eastern Utah and Western Colorado
- Tech. Note 52 (revised). Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Plant Species of Utah.
- Tech. Note 51 (revised). Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Plant Species of Idaho.
- Tech. Note 4a. Filling out ID-CPA-025 Seeding/Planting Plan and UT Planting Specification Sheets.

Plant Fact Sheets

- Fourwing saltbush
- Bluebunch wheatgrass

- Common spikerush
- Nebraska sedge
- Snake River wheatgrass

Plant Guides

- Columbian needlegrass
- Las Vegas buckwheat
- Mountain goldenbanner
- Western aster
- Showy goldeneye
- Limestone hawkbeard
- Siberian wheatgrass
- Small burnet
- Indian ricegrass
- Thickspike, streambank and Great Lakes wheatgrass

Plant Materials Team and Contact Information

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