



UP - DATE

the **electronic** newsletter of the
Uncompahgre Plateau Project

December 2005

CSU -WCRC Native Seed Production 2005

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This is the third season that the Colorado State University's Western Colorado Research Center at Rogers Mesa (WCRC) has been working in conjunction with the UP Project, and the first season to yield good seed harvests. Wild seed was collected by the UP Native Seed crew, and transplants and raw seed have been provided to the WCRC for two seasons for research studies including Life History, Irrigation Scheduling, and Spacing.

Transplanting was made easier this season thanks to an innovative new design allowing buried drip irrigation lines to be laid on the same pass through the field as the transplants going into the ground. This allows for more efficient irrigation and will make cultivation between rows possible.



Transplanting in the field

In addition to several new forb and grass species planted in the Life History Study area, two new research projects were put into the ground. The Irrigation Study will examine two different irrigation schedules to determine which system will give the greatest seed yields. The first schedule will have water delivered to the plants until flower initiation while the other schedule will keep irrigating until seed maturation. The Spacing Study looks at three different spacings of 18", 24", and 30" between plants to determine the best

configuration of plants within the row. Both studies include the forbs *Astragalus eastwoodiae*, *Eriogonum umbellatum*, *Linum lewisii*, *Penstemon cyanocaulis*, and the grasses *Koeleria macrantha* and *Poa fendleriana*.



Linum lewisii in bloom

Seed harvest began in June with *Poa fendleriana* and stretched until the end of August when the *Achillea lanulosa* was harvested. Small amounts of the grasses *Koeleria macrantha*, *Poa fendleriana*, and *Stipa comata* and the forb *Erigeron pumilus* were harvested by hand or using a hand-held seed stripper. Large amounts of seed were harvested from the *Achillea lanulosa* and *Erigeron speciosus* plots using a plot-sized Hege combine. Small lots of seeds were also harvested at two grower-cooperator farms. Harvested seeds are currently being processed which includes cleaning and seed testing.



Erigeron speciosus harvest

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