



UP Native Plant Program Accomplishments FY2002 - FY2005

2002

- UP Technical Committee hired Stephen Monsen, a highly regarded retired botanist/ecologist with the USDA Shrub Science Laboratory, to head the UP Native Plant Program.
- UP Native Plant Program Strategic Plan drafted.

2003

- Wildland Seed Collection Sites located on Plateau and Project Crews collected 14 forbs, 8 grasses, 3 shrubs from 70 separate collection sites. Over 188 lbs of uncleaned seed was collected and transported to Utah.

2004

- Project Crews collected 18 forbs, 12 grasses, and 3 shrubs from 101 separate collection sites. Over 120 lbs of uncleaned seed was collected and transported to Utah.
- Foundation Fields established at Meeker PMC, Rogers Mesa (CSU), and Fountain Green (Utah DWR) for 4 grass species.
- Spacing and Irrigation Studies established at Fountain Green and Brigham Young University for 7 forb species.
- A study on the distribution of cheatgrass throughout the Uncompahgre Plateau was completed by Dr. Allan Stevens, Snow College, UT.

Laboratory trials will identify the different populations or ecotypes that occurred in the region. This data is being used to determine if different populations do exist, if specific control measures can be applied to halt the advancement of the species and to develop control measures and accomplish restoration measures.

2005

- Plant Selection and Development: Wildland Seed Harvest
- Project crews finished seed collections of the principal species designated for advancement and development for community restoration for the Uncompahgre Plateau but also applicable to the Colorado Plateau.
- Project Crews collected 15 grasses, 25 forbs, and 10 shrubs from 78 separate collection sites. Over 252 lbs of uncleaned seed was collected, transported to Utah, cleaned and processed for storage.
- Evaluated seeds currently being collected and advanced through the Uncompahgre effort and compared the collections with plants initially identified as important to USDA Forest Service Regions 2 & 4. Species considered important to the Forests have been initially compiled and information prepared to discuss with Forest employees in both Regions. Potential collection sites have been identified and field collections will be expanded in 2006. Sites required to assemble the additional species have been prepared. Seed production fields have been expanded to accommodate seed increase plantings, establish rearing studies and evaluate plant growth.
- Coordinated with seed collection crews from Utah BLM and Colorado BLM to assist with seed collections of representative species from areas in Utah and Colorado.
- Plant Culture and Seed Rearing Studies
- Established studies at Rogers Mesa and Fountain Green to investigate life history and record data of general plant response to field cultivation conditions for 14 perennial species. None of these plants have been previously grown in cultivation or planted off-site.

- Established fields at Fountain Green and Rogers Mesa to evaluate the influence of row spacing, irrigation, and cultivation for 17 species of perennial grasses and broadleaf forbs.
- Established seed increase fields at projected managed locations at Snow Field Station, Fountain Green, and Spanish Fork of approximately one acre for each of 15 perennial forb species and 11 perennial grasses.
- Assisted Lucky Peak Nursery and cooperative or private seed growers to establish foundation fields of 8 individual species of grasses and broadleaf herbs.
- Collected and provided seed to Lone Peak State Nursery, Draper, UT and Lucky Peak, FS Nursery, Boise NF, ID of six species to be grown for spring plantings to establish one-acre foundation fields at project locations and with commercial growers in 2006.
- Established a 10-acre seed increase field site with Colorado Division of Wildlife to produce seed of Stansbury cliffrose and antelope bitterbrush.
- Crews collected sufficient seed of Douglas rabbitbrush and antelope bitterbrush to produce 10,000 transplants of each shrub to establish wildland stands to be managed for seed production. Stock is currently being grown at the Lone Peak Nursery for spring plantings 2006.
- A study of the distribution of different sagebrush taxa throughout the Uncompahgre Plateau was completed by Dr. Allan Stevens, Snow College, UT. The ploidy level for each species was determined and plant occurrence was mapped to define location by elevation, topography, overall plant community types, soils, and climatic conditions. This information will assist in determining the existence and ecological relationship of different species, the evolution and occurrence of hybrid populations, and the need to re-assemble different plant associations when restoration measures are applied.
- Seed from 15 native grasses have been obtained from surrounding sites in the West representing different geographical locations. Seeds are currently being grown as transplant stock for field plantings at four locations in Utah and Colorado. Field planting sites have been selected to represent conditions within the PJ and sagebrush steppe communities.

Study sites have been selected, cleared for plantings, fenced for protection, prepared for additional planting trials in subsequent years.

Training and Dissemination of Information

The UP Project hosted and conducted a Pinyon-Juniper – Sagebrush Conference and Workshop in May 2005. Over 350 individuals registered and attended the conference.