

Section 10: Colorado Plateau Native Plant Initiative

The UP Native Plant Program continues to make strides towards the production and research of native plant materials. As federal budgets tighten, however, it is becoming more difficult to fund this long-term and extensive program. In 2007, representatives of the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State Wildlife Agencies from the Colorado Plateau geographic region met several times with Northern Arizona University and the Uncompahgre Plateau (UP) Project to discuss the formation of the Colorado Plateau Native Plant Initiative (CPNPI); an interagency, multi-state, native plant materials program. The CPNPI plans to develop priorities similar to the Great Basin Native Plant Selection and Increase Project and build upon the successes of the UP Native Plant Program. The Utah BLM is in the process of hiring a coordinator to oversee all native plant programs in the Colorado Plateau region. It is our belief that the synergy of this regional effort will make the best use of limited time and resources and assist all the partners in meeting their goals and objectives.

At a meeting in June 2007 in Moab, UT, the following material was collaboratively developed in an attempt to solidify the formation of the CPNPI.

Vision

Our vision is a Colorado Plateau that supports native plant communities and their associated species for future generations.

Goals

1. Develop an adequate supply of native plant materials to facilitate the enhancement, recovery and/or restoration of landscapes.
2. Develop methodologies to ensure successful establishment and persistence of native plant materials.
3. Cooperate with public and private entities in the sharing of information.

Objectives

1. Create and maintain an organizational structure to administer the CPNPI. Hire a coordinator in FY2008.
2. Identify partners' current and future needs and develop a strategic plan that addresses these needs.
3. Compile and evaluate known information.
4. Evaluate existing and potential facilities and resources.
5. Determine genetic adaptability of current program species.
6. Establish a network of growers.
7. Develop long-term strategies for the production and research of native plant materials.
8. Identify adaptable management prescriptions for different landscapes and species.
9. Ensure adequate monitoring and evaluation of restoration and rehabilitation efforts.
10. Establish demonstration areas and sponsor tours, workshops and symposiums.
11. Develop outreach material, publications, website, etc.

Potential Partners and Cooperators

(The following is a list of potential partners and cooperators. There are currently no commitments for participation or funding.)

- US Forest Service - Regions 2, 3 and 4
- Bureau of Land Management –UT, CO, AZ, NM
- State Wildlife Agencies –UT, CO, AZ, NM
- US Geological Survey
- Rocky Mt. Research Stations
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

- USDA Agricultural Research Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- NRCS - Plant Material Centers
- National Park Service
- Federal Highway Administration
- Tribal Nations
- Universities – NAU, BYU, CSU, USU, Snow College
- State Crop Improvement Associations
- Private Seed Companies & Plant Nurseries
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Farm Bureau
- University Extension Offices
- Utility & Oil and Gas Companies
- Local Governments and Counties
- Soil Conservation Districts
- Utah Partners for Conservation and Development
- Northern Arizona Native Seed Alliance
- Other Collaborative Native Plant Programs

