

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: ALLOWING LIMITED RELEASE OF NPS NATIVE GENETIC PLANT STRAINS TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR: PROBABLE IMPLICATIONS FOR PROTECTING GENETIC INTEGRITY
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University, NRCS
Effective Dates: June 8, 2004 - June 8, 2010
Funding Amount: \$10,000
<p>Investigators and Agency Representative:</p> <p><u>NPS KEY OFFICIAL:</u> Gregory E. Eckert, Restoration Ecologist National Park Service Natural Resource Program Center Suite 200, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525 970/225-3594 fax 970/225-3585 greg_eckert@nps.gov</p> <p><u>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:</u> Dr. Shanna E. Carney Assistant Professor of Biology Department of Biology Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-1878 Telephone: 970 491 1092 FAX: 970 491 0649 E-mail: secarney@lamar.colorstate.edu</p>
<p>Project Abstract:</p> <p>NPS Management Policies direct that:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The restoration of native plants and animals will be accomplished using organisms taken from populations as closely related genetically and ecologically as possible to park populations, preferably from similar habitats in adjacent or local areas.....</p> <p>This necessarily general guidance is subject to a wide range of interpretation when parks and other NPS offices attempt to apply it in specific situations. Even when NPS uses custom-grown material from local genetic stocks, the definition of "local" is constantly being debated. The issue becomes particularly troublesome when fires or other large-scale disturbances create an immediate need for large quantities of native seed. A potential solution would be to allow the Natural Resources Conservation Service, NPS's 15-year partner in successfully increasing local genetic seed stocks for restoration purposes, to release germplasm from NPS genetic stocks so that the private sector could further increase the supply. This scenario predicts that the ability to sell native seed of NPS origin to other agencies and the general public would generate sufficient supplies of genetically appropriate seed which would then be available to NPS in emergencies. There are however, serious legal and genetic conservation issues associated with this solution. Legal issues aside, NPS proposes fund a cooperative agreement with Colorado State University that will explore the possible consequences of allowing NRCS to release 40 native ecotypes of NPS origin. This agreement would be the first phase of a science-based assessment of genetic issues raised by NPS management policies.</p>
<p>Outcomes with completion dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial literature search: June 8 to July 26, 2004 • Analysis: July 26 to August 16, 2004 • Oral Presentation/Meeting of Recommendations with NPS on Draft Report - Week of August 16th to 20th, 2004 • Phase 1 Report: June 15, 2005
<p>Keywords: native plant restoration, genetics, germplasm, private sector, Colorado State University, WASO-BRMD, Denver Service Center, Natural Resource Conservation Service</p>
<p>For Administrative use only:</p> <p>Date Annual Report Received: Date Final Report Received: Publications, etc. on file:</p>