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## Developing Native Plant Germplasm for National Forests and Grasslands in the Pacific Northwest

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### ABSTRACT

Revegetation needs on national forests and grasslands in the Pacific Northwest are extensive and are expected to increase in the future as a result of growing challenges such as climate change, severe wildfires, invasive plants, and at-risk species. In response to these needs, Region 6 of the USDA Forest Service has implemented a new program to develop native plant materials for restoration activities that will be economical, effective, and consistent with Forest Service policy to protect biological diversity and plant genetic resources. The program has required strategic investments and commitments to research, infrastructure, equipment, and technology transfer. This article summarizes methods for species selection, plant material needs projections, propagule collection, nursery culture, and agricultural seed production. Although many challenges and constraints remain, considerable success has been achieved due to a dedicated workforce and the strong nursery system and agricultural infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest. Plant materials are becoming increasingly available and affordable as nurseries and seed producers gain experience and knowledge in their culture and management. In addition, this program is benefiting rural economies and contributing to the development of secondary, non-federal markets for native plant material services and products.

Erickson VJ. 2008. Developing native plant germplasm for national forests and grasslands in the Pacific Northwest. *Native Plants Journal* 9(3):255–266.

### KEY WORDS

grassland restoration, prairie, herbicide, restoration methods, seed addition, native diversity, invasive species

### NOMENCLATURE

USDA NRCS (2008)