

Revegetation Efforts Using Native Species

A number of Rocky Mountain Region parks are using native vegetation to rehabilitate Federal Lands Highways Program (FLHP) road corridor disturbance. Extensive programs are beginning or continuing at Grand Teton, Bryce Canyon, Mesa Verde, Yellowstone, and Glacier. Each of these parks has selected native species believed to be environmentally appropriate and genetically acceptable for its particular rehab needs.

Native seed or cuttings are collected from the parks to be propagated at a Soil Conservation Service (SCS) plant materials center. Here, native grass seed is propagated over several seasons to produce large quantities of seed which, in turn, is returned to the park. SCS also will propagate shrubs from cuttings or seeds to be returned to parks for planting at the appropriate time. FLHP funds have paid for the SCS plant propagation for these 5 parks.

NPS revegetation/restoration expertise is available from the NPS Plant Materials program, staffed by Rocky Beavers and Wendell Hassel, and located in Professional Support at the Denver Service Center. Both these individuals are available to advise parks which species to use for reveg efforts and how to develop them through the SCS plant material centers. Sarah Wynn is Vegetation Restoration Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Region.

In order to develop as much information as possible about how to revegetate disturbed areas using native vegetation, the Branch of Science asks those parks involved in such efforts to monitor all ongoing projects and if possible to establish a research plan.