

DEVELOPING CRITERIA FOR “GO-TO” SPECIES LISTS FOR REVEGETATION¹

G.E. Eckert, R. Haas and S. Wynn²

Abstract. The National Park Service seeks to preserve its natural resources for the enjoyment of future generations. NPS Management Policies also stress the use of local plant material for revegetation projects. Thus, the preservation mandate includes the resource level of genotype. NPS managers increasingly are caught between a rock and a hard place of needing to know what is “truly local” in terms of matching genotypes of species found in the parks, when “local” actually makes a difference in the genetic integrity of a species, and the increasing demands of native plant material for roadside construction and management, invasive plant control, fuel treatment and disturbed land restoration projects. NPS hopes to collaborate more extensively with NRCS Plant Material Centers and other nurseries to increase effective and commonly used native species. Limited lists of species common to site stabilization and revegetation needs in an ecoregion would facilitate this. This list would be used by NPS and its partners to understand genetic issues involved with increase and potential broad distribution. While input will be sought from experts in different regions of the country, a useful way to limit the universe of species will be to establish criteria for the short list. These criteria would include ease of collection, ease of increase and establishment, length of storage, competition with invasive species, genetics-related research, ability to stabilize and cover soil quickly, etc. We will present our preliminary list of criteria and examples from different ecoregions and provide Symposium participants opportunity to add or comment on the list or strategy.

¹ Paper was presented at the 2006 Billings Land Reclamation Symposium, June 4-8, 2006, Billings MT and jointly published by BLRS and ASMR, R.I. Barnhisel (ed.) 3134 Montavesta Rd., Lexington, KY 40502.

²Gregory E. Eckert, Restoration Ecologist, Natural Resource Program Center, National Park Service, Fort Collins, Co 80521 (970) 225-3594 email: greg_eckert@nps.gov, Russ Haas, NRCS Plant Material Technical Advisor to the NPS, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bismarck, ND 58502 (701) 530-2026 email: russ_haas@nps.gov, Sarah Wynn, Revegetation Vegetation Specialist, Denver Service Center, National Park Service, Lakewood, CO 908925 (303) 969-2292 email: sarah_wynn@nps.gov.