

NATIVE PLANTS FOR NATIONAL PARKS: AN INTERAGENCY PLANT MATERIALS PROGRAM¹

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Abstract. Since 1989, an interagency agreement between the National Park Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service has led to an exchange of technical information and the development of park indigenous plant materials, new seed /plant propagation technologies and revegetation methodologies.

The highly successful program continues to provide assistance to National Parks through NRCS Plant Materials Centers (PMC) to: identify plant species needed; collect and process native seed; provide high quality custom grown container plants and field production of native forb and grass seed from site specific collections; ensure genetic integrity; provide technical assistance on site preparation, plant propagation and establishment, weed control, seed collection and processing and invasive species control.

In the past 16 years the program has: assisted over 45 National Parks under 105 interagency agreements in cooperation with twelve Plant Materials Centers (PMC); tested over 1400 native species and developed successful propagation techniques for more than 700 species; produced approximately 14,100 PLS kilograms of grass/forb seed and 800,000 tree/shrub seedlings; developed computer tools and a guide to assist in cost estimation, seeding rate/mixture and specification development; and an NPS revegetation intranet website.

Propagation protocols developed from research by the Park Service and PMCs have been placed on an interagency website (<http://nativeplantnetwork.org>) for access by agencies, nurseries, seed producers and the general public.

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