

# NATIVE LANDSCAPE RESTORATION AT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract.** The National Park Service's Organic Act of 1916 charges the agency with promoting and regulating the use of national parks in ways that would "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and ...provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." This language is the basis for Park Service management practices which relate to native landscape restoration. When disturbed areas must be restored, the Park Service prefers to use native seed collected in that particular park. Through a long-standing partnership with the NRCS, park collected seed is grown out and increased at appropriate Plant Material Centers. When time does not allow for these activities, other less desirable solutions may be used. NPS is concerned about threats posed by the use of inappropriate cultivars and also genetically modified organisms both within and outside park boundaries. We hope to work more closely with our neighbors to develop appropriate restoration materials to use at the local level.

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