

Seed-Spec: A Native Seed Blend Development Tool¹

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Abstract: Establishing native vegetation in any reclamation project can be a challenging task. The species and varieties that match the site must be identified and used to help ensure adequate establishment and persistence. Data exists to help project managers identify what species are native to a given area and commercially available, but can be cumbersome, not user friendly, and time consuming. Bamert Seed Company has worked with Colorado State University to develop a web application to easily identify a project area of interest (AOI) and provide information on native species composition for the AOI. The tool will provide a list of commercially available species that correspond to the plants that grow natively in the AOI and intuitively walk the user through developing a site-specific native seed blend. The recommended seeding rate from NRCS will be used to calculate the pounds of pure live seed (PLS) that will be needed for the project. Users will have the ability to adjust the seeding rate based on their establishment objectives and seeding method they will be using. Having this tool will allow the reclamation specialist a timely way to determine the best blend for their AOI and get the seed blend to a vendor/seed dealer with knowledge that the species selected will work for their specific site. Rob will discuss the importance of native plants and the benefits they bring to reclamation projects such as adding biodiversity and improving soil health. He will discuss and present version 1 of the tool and ask attendees to provide input on what other functionality/data would be useful on their operations for version 2.

Additional Key Words: Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Revegetation, Reclamation, Species Selection.

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1. Oral presentation at the 2022 National Meeting of the American Society of Reclamations Sciences, Duluth, MN. June 12 – 16, 2022
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