Use Native Species for Restoration on NFS Lands

National U.S. Forest Service policy emphasizes the use of native plant species for restoration (FSM 2070.3). This policy restricts the use of non-native plants and requires native species to be given primary consideration during restoration, rehabilitation, and revegetation on NFS lands.

Traditional “off the shelf” commercial seed mixes may contain non-native plant seed. Use of these seed mixes on NFS lands is not in accordance with USFS policy.

Native alternatives are beneficial to both wildlife and pollinators and contribute to sustainable plant communities under climate change.

If land managers decide to reseed following disturbances such as wildfire, use of native species will help meet management objectives by restoring native plant diversity, attracting beneficial pollinators and enhancing ecosystem resilience while reducing the establishment and spread of weeds and undesirable vegetation.

Additional Information

Fire Effects Information System
www.feis-crs.org/feis/
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
www.xerces.org
Native Seed Network
www.nativeseednetwork.org
USDA Plants Database
www.plants.usda.gov
National USFS Plant Materials Policy
www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/Native_Plant_Materials/policy.shtml

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Sow Natives:
A Guide for Restoration & Revegetation Projects

This brochure provides a snapshot of non-native species vs. their native counterparts to assist land managers in selecting desirable species for revegetation and restoration on National Forest System (NFS) lands in Montana, Idaho, North Dakota and NW South Dakota.

Best management practices for NFS lands recommend the use of a diverse planting mix containing native grass and forb species. Species recommendations are based on generalized ecological conditions such as moisture regimes and site disturbance.

Revegetation practitioners will also want to investigate other resources for information on native species including those listed on the back of this brochure.
Fifteen Unwanted Plants and Recommended Alternatives for Revegetation and Restoration

### Disturbed Sites
These plants thrive on nutrient-poor sites and provide soil stabilization and erosion control.

**INVASIVE**
- Intermediate wheatgrass
- Tripsacum dactyloides
- Redtop
  - Agrostis gigantea

**NATIVE**
- Rushbush wheatgrass
  - Pseudoroegneria spicata
- Slender wheatgrass
  - Elymus trachycaulus
- Perfsoon's sedge
  - Carex cherokeensis

### Cool Moist Sites
These species commonly occur on cool, moist, low to middle elevation sites.

**INVASIVE**
- Smooth bromegrass
  - Bromus inermis

**NATIVE**
- Mountain bromegrass
  - Bromus marginatus
- Slender wheatgrass
  - Elymus trachycaulus
- Columbia bromegrass
  - Bromus invarius

### Dry Sites
These species have low water requirements and thrive on sites with low precipitation.

**INVASIVE**
- Sheep sorrel
  - Pilea reptans
- Rough bentgrass
  - Agrostis lehzii

**NATIVE**
- Sandberg bluegrass
  - Poa pratensis
- Prairie wheatgrass
  - Elymus armatus
- Muhlenbergia capillaris

### Riparian Sites
These species are well adapted to meadows, riparian sites, and stream margins.

**INVASIVE**
- Kentucky bluegrass
  - Poa pratensis

**NATIVE**
- Creeping bluegrass
  - Poa annua
- Green needlegrass
  - Nardus stricta
- Thackery bluegrass
  - Poa pratensis

**INVASIVE**
- Bulbous ragwort
  - Senecio aureus

**NATIVE**
- Silky sedge
  - Calamagrostis canadensis
- Red fescue
  - Festuca idahoensis
- Utah sweetvetch
  - Vicia utahensis

**NATIVE**
- Red clover
  - Trifolium pratense
- Common yarrow
  - Achillea millefolium
- Western wildrye
  - Elymus trachycaulus

**INVASIVE**
- Silky sedge
  - Calamagrostis canadensis

**NATIVE**
- Black clover
  - Trifolium repens
- Thackery bluegrass
  - Poa pratensis
- Mountain big sagebrush
  - Artemisia tridentata