

Seeking Regional Grower Involvement in Salmon-area Native Plant Program

The Salmon Valley Stewardship Native Plants Program (NPP) in Salmon, Idaho wants to hear from local growers interested in producing local seedlings and developing dependable propagation protocols of native forbs and shrubs. The NPP collects seed from 90+ species, most of them forbs, for direct use in seed-based restoration. Because almost none of these species or locally-adapted populations are available to restoration practitioners seeking local plant material, the NPP can offer some seed from many of these species to regional growers whose goals are to improve the supply of locally-appropriate plant material for use in restoration efforts.

Why engagement with regional growers is critical



The goals of the NPP are to generate diverse seed mixes, perform evidence-based restoration activities, and expand restoration capacity in the region. The NPP currently lacks capacity to grow container seedlings, but regional growers already supply nearby restoration efforts with plants. The NPP would like to encourage growers in the region to use appropriately collected seed of a diverse array of local native species to improve the availability of adapted plant materials. Therefore, the NPP can supply samples of seed to support regional production and then coordinate with agencies and other organizations to encourage restoration practitioners to purchase from these growers. In exchange, growers will be encouraged to share useful propagation methods and information with the NPP so that it can be made available to others interested in working with these species and growing the restoration economy.

How to get involved

Fill out a **Seed Request Form** (QR code) if you are interested in obtaining seed to grow nursery stock or for seed increase. Please share this opportunity with others in East-Central Idaho. We are also soliciting researchers to perform applied research. See website for details: <https://www.salmonvalley.org/nativeplants>



More about our program

The Salmon-Challis National Forest and Salmon Valley Stewardship (nonprofit in Salmon, ID) have partnered together since 2022 to build a Native Plants Program to improve the plant diversity and methods used in regional restoration efforts. Our current collections encompass mostly non-riparian species in semi-arid sagebrush cold deserts, dry forest river canyons, and montane bunchgrass communities.



With multi-year base funding and cross-boundary regional support, we collect a large diversity of native species seeds from public and private land. We follow a regional admixture provenance approach to collecting but can follow other protocols as needed. We employ a growing array of professional seed cleaning and storage equipment to process our collections. Most of our seed is used same-year in small hand-seeding restoration projects but we maintain inventory for many of these species in low-humidity cold storage. We are also experimenting with shared-risk seed increase contracts with local growers attempting new species for the first time. We wish to increase the quality, frequency, and scale of regional restoration efforts, and increasing our engagement with local growers and nurseries will help us toward these goals.

