

Willamette Valley Native Plant Materials Partnership



2013

Annual Report

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PREFACE

IAE is a non-profit organization whose mission is conservation of native ecosystems through restoration, research and education. IAE provides services to public and private agencies and individuals through development and communication of information on ecosystems, species, and effective management strategies. Restoration of habitats, with a concentration on rare and invasive species, is a primary focus. IAE conducts its work through partnerships with a diverse group of agencies, organizations and the private sector. IAE aims to link its community with native habitats through education and outreach.



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COOPERATORS

Benton County; Bureau of Land Management; Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development; City of Corvallis; City of Eugene; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Friends of Buford Park & Mt Pisgah; Greenbelt Land Trust; Heritage Seedlings, Inc.; Kenagy Family Farms; Long Tom Watershed Council; McKenzie River Trust; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Oregon Department of Transportation; Oregon Metro; Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; Oregon Seed Certification; Pacific Northwest Natives; Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District; The Nature Conservancy; Triangle Farms, Inc.; Trillium Gardens; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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Cover photograph: Rosy plectritis in bloom on a South Valley upland prairie. *Photo by Jenny Getty.*

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2013 ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Goal 1 – Establish the Willamette Valley Native Plant Materials Partnership and build organizational infrastructure to support WVNPM activities.

- Created a Memorandum of Understanding – Out for signature on November 14, 2013.
- Finalized a 5-year Strategic Plan – Plan finalized on November 14, 2013.
- Completed a 5-year budget projection (2013-2017) (see Financial Summary).
- Secured 100% of funding for 2013 and 80% of 2014 operations.
- Finalized Partnership charter documents.
- Developed a draft plan for shared investment and equitable distribution of plant materials to partners – Presented to Partnership on November 14, 2013 and approved.
- Added three new partners – City of Corvallis, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and Oregon Parks & Recreation Department.

Goal 2 – Increase availability of native plant materials, increase marketplace stability by aligning projected needs with grower capacity, and reduce the risk of growing plant materials on speculation.

- Used partner projections to forecast plant materials needs over the next few years of the top priority species.
- Received harvests of two adopted fields – *Juncus occidentalis* (42 lbs) and *Symphotrichum hallii* (4 lbs) (pictured at right).
- Entered two new species into production – *Potentilla gracilis* and *Solidago lepida* var. *salebrosa*.
- Developed contracts for new production – Corvallis Plant Materials Center and Kenagy Family Farm, Inc.



FIGURE 1. SYMPHYOTRICHUM HALLII.

Goal 3 – Centralize coordination of collecting, producing, and distributing native plant materials to improve efficiency and lower costs.

- Developed and refined prioritized species focus list.
- Developed seed collection, cleaning, and storage protocols.
- Hired a two-person seed collection crew for 2013 collection.
- Collected seed of 15 native species from the prioritized list.
- Received contributions of wild-collected seed from three partners.

Goal 4 – Improve quality and genetic appropriateness of native plant materials used in restoration, mitigation, and revegetation projects in the Willamette Valley.

- Draft guidelines for ensuring genetic appropriateness on a species-by-species basis established in 2013.
- Plan established for evaluating genetics of *Eriophyllum lanatum* (pictured at right) before entering into production.



FIGURE 2. ERIOPHYLLUM LANATUM.

Goal 5 – Provide an online forum for sharing information within the WVNMP and to other interested parties and the general public.

- Cooperative website established through the Institute for Applied Ecology and made available to the public – <http://wvcoop.nativeseednetwork.org/>
- Cooperative website used for communicating internally with partners and for posting updates – 3 posts in 2013.

SEED COLLECTION

In 2013, the Cooperative hired a two-person seed collection crew for its first season collecting wild seed for production. This two-person crew was part of a larger four-person crew funded by multiple projects, which provided flexibility in managing logistics associated with scouting and collecting over the entire



FIGURE 3. COLLECTING SEED OF ROSY PLECTRITIS.

Willamette Valley (i.e. on any given day there could be two teams collecting for the Cooperative in different areas of the valley, four people collecting at the same site, all four focusing on collection for different projects, or have different teams working on different projects). The four-person crew spent over 50% of their time working on Cooperative planning, scouting, and collection. The crew scouted for 18 species from the priority list, and collected seed from 13 species at over 90 sites throughout the Willamette Valley. See Table 1 for a list of species with common names, and collection information.

Seed of several species was collected in sufficient quantities to initiate production, but with low site number and/or diversity; conversely, two to three species were collected from enough sites but with low quantities of seed or with significant gaps in site locations (i.e. no collections in the north valley, or east valley, or certain counties where we know there are populations). Only two species had enough sites, site diversity, and seed quantity to enter into production (*Potentilla gracilis* and *Solidago lepida* var. *salebrosa*). The three top priority annuals (*Clarkia amoena*, *Lotus unifoliolatus*, and *Plectritis congesta*) will take more than one year of collection to be ready for production and a good start was made with *L. unifoliolatus*. One of the top priority species, *Elymus trachycaulus*, was found at only one WV Ecoregion site, with a population of fewer than 50 plants. Another species, *Lupinus rivularis*, was found on only a couple of sites and only one with enough individuals to support collection. We will continue to scout for both species in subsequent years, but neither species will be as high a priority as those species with multiple collection sites and more wild seed available. Three species were

dropped from the 2013 collection list as they are of lower priority than the other species on the list – these species will be added back in as we get higher priority species collected and into production.

Three partners contributed wild-collected seed to the Cooperative project: the City of Eugene (*Eriophyllum lanatum* and *Prunella vulgaris*), US Army Corps of Engineers (*S. lepida*), and Institute for Applied Ecology (*P. gracilis*). The contributions of *P. gracilis* and *S. lepida* were of different sites from where IAE was able to collect, and in the case of *P. gracilis* was from collections from 2009. These donations contributed enough site diversity and quantity to be able to enter the two species into production in the fall of 2013.

Table 1. 2013 Seed collection summary.

Species	Common Name	# Sites	Amt collected
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	western yarrow	3	28 g
<i>Carex tumulicola</i>	foothill sedge	12	0.34 lb
<i>Clarkia amoena</i>	farewell-to-spring	3	3.5 g
<i>Danthonia californica</i>	California oatgrass	9	0.22 lb (est)
<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>	slender wheatgrass	1 site found	0
<i>Epilobium densiflorum</i>	dense spikerose	Dropped in 2013	0
<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	woolly sunflower	5	0.45 lb
<i>Grindelia integrifolia</i>	Willamette Valley gumweed	Dropped in 2013	0
<i>Lomatium nudicaule</i>	barestem biscuitroot	5	1.98 lb
<i>Lotus unifoliolatus</i>	Spanish clover	16	0.67 lb
<i>Lupinus rivularis</i>	riverbank lupine	Few sites found	0
<i>Madia elegans</i>	common madia	Dropped in 2013	0
<i>Plectritis congesta</i>	rosy seablush	5	74g
<i>Potentilla gracilis</i>	slender cinquefoil	16	1.3 lb
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> var. <i>lanceolata</i>	self-heal	21	1.4 lb
<i>Sidalcea campestris</i>	meadow checkermallow	7	15g (est)
<i>Sidalcea malviflora</i> ssp. <i>virgata</i>	rose checkermallow	6	25g
<i>Solidago lepida</i> var. <i>salebrosa</i>	western goldenrod	12	0.5 lb

PRODUCTION

Solidago lepida var. *salebrosa* (pictured at left) and *Potentilla gracilis* (pictured below) were both entered into production in the fall of 2013. Plugs grown from the wild-collected seed will be outplanted to the field in the spring of 2014. The field size for each species is based upon grower yield estimates combined with usage estimates from the Partnership. *P. gracilis* will be grown out on a larger scale (1 acre) than *S. lepida* (0.15 acre) as it is a workhorse species used in most restoration projects.



FIGURE 4. SOLIDAGO LEPIDA VAR. SALEBROSA.

The Cooperative is now the owner of previously established fields of two species in production as part of

a separate project at the PMC: *Symphotrichum hallii* (see Figure 1) and *Juncus occidentalis* (formerly *J. tenuis*), pictured at right. Each field produced a harvest in 2013, which will be shared among partners in 2014. *Symphotrichum hallii* seed will be used to start plugs for outplanting on partner sites as it is an expensive species to grow and does poorly from broadcast seeding on restoration sites.



FIGURE 5. JUNCUS OCCIDENTALIS (TENUIS).

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2013 Funding (Cooperative)

In early 2013, the Cooperative expected to receive about \$90,000 in funding. Based on this expectation we hired the equivalent of a 2-person crew (or half of a crew that was collecting for multiple projects). In the middle of the year we received more funding than expected, for a total of \$129,268, and allocated that to the 2014 season. See Table 2 for a list of funders in 2013. Table 3 breaks down the 2013 budget into three categories: program management/coordination, seed collection, and plant materials production.

Table 2. 2013 funding contributions by partner.

Partner contributions	2013
USFWS/NRCS	\$ 86,000
BLM	\$ 20,000
USACE	\$ 10,000
IAE/OWEB	\$ 10,268
Total	\$ 126,268

Table 3. 2013 budget (actual spending).

Cost (2-person crew)	2013
Program management and coordination	\$ 28,714
Seed collection	\$ 53,058
Production	\$ 16,606
Total	\$ 98,378
Moved forward to 2014	\$ 27,890

2014 Funding

We have received 78% of the funding requested for 2014, with 22% left to fund. With \$27,890 brought forward from 2013, we have \$122,890 available for the upcoming year's operations. The projected budget for 2014 is \$156,061, leaving us with approximately \$33,000 still to be secured for the upcoming year. Table 4 lists the partners who have already contributed to the 2014 operations costs. Table 5 breaks down the projected budget for 2014 into three categories: program management/coordination, seed collection, and plant materials production.

Table 4. 2014 funding contributions by partner

Partner contributions	2014
USFWS/NRCS	\$ 20,000
BLM	\$ 20,000
USACE	\$ 10,000
TNC	\$ 45,000
From previous year	\$ 27,890
Total	\$ 122,890

Table 5. 2014 budget (projected spending)

Cost (4-person crew)	2014
Program management and coordination	\$ 26,879
Seed collection	\$ 87,253
Production	\$ 42,029
Total	\$ 156,061
Remaining to fund	\$ 33,171

SUCCESSSES & LESSONS LEARNED

1. Seed donated by partners was helpful in rounding out the genetics of the seed collected, and enabled us to move forward on production for two additional species.
2. Used the prioritized list of species to reorganize the collection list for 2013 and 2014 after finding few or no collection sites for five species, and finding that two to three species had poor seed years.
3. Cooperative committees successfully developed recommendations for Cooperative actions and further refined agreements and protocols according to the feedback of the greater partnership.
4. Split focus among too many species: We dropped several species from our collection list during the 2013 season, and we will work from a smaller collection list in 2014 in order to allocate enough scouting and collecting time to the top priority species.
5. Did not have enough person time to scout and collect everywhere we wanted to: we will devote a four-person seed collection crew to Cooperative collection in 2014.
6. We will take more advantage of partner eyes on the ground for adding relevant sites to our collection list.



FIGURE 6. POTENTILLA GRACILIS.

NEXT STEPS

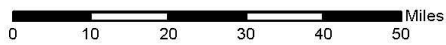
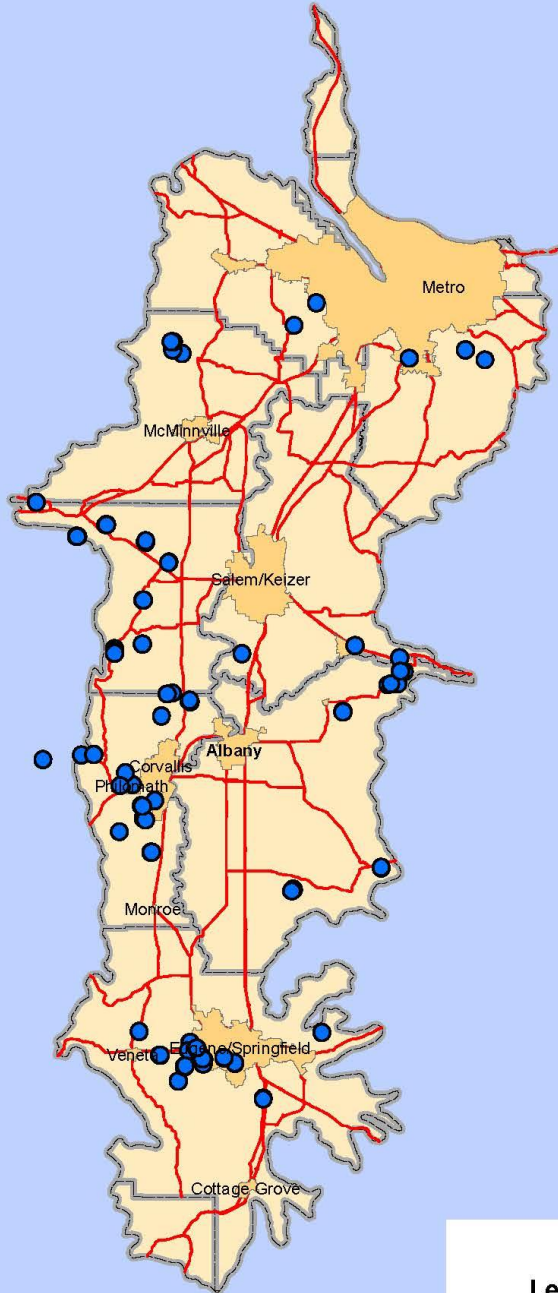
1. Scout and collect 10-15 species in 2014 – the highest priority species will be those for which collections occurred in 2013 and are close to having sufficient quantity, sites, and site diversity to initiate production.
2. Put 5 new species into production
3. Add at least one new partner
4. Give partners share of harvest of 2-4 species
5. Collect all signatures of MOU partners.

APPENDIX A: 2013 COLLECTION MAP

Cooperative Collection 2013

Collections 2013

Date: 10/4/2013



Legend

-  Cooperative Collection Sites 2013
-  Highways
-  Willamette Valley Ecoregion counties

APPENDIX B: MAP OF SLENDER CINQUEFOIL COLLECTIONS IN 2013



APPENDIX C: MAP OF WESTERN GOLDENROD COLLECTIONS IN 2013

