

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
Financial Assistance (Cooperative Agreements)



**PROJECT PROPOSAL**  
(Suggested Format)

**Instructions:** A Project Proposal must be submitted with the Standard Form (SF) 424 Application for Federal Assistance for all BLM Assistance Agreements. Complete each section below. Use additional sheets as needed.

Person Submitting Proposal: Sam Whitridge Date: 6/29/2017

Organization Name: Rogue Basin Partnership

Agreement or Announcement No.: L17AS00085

Agreement or Announcement Title: BLM OR/WA Rogue Native Plant Partnership

Estimated Period of Performance: October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2022

Proposed Project Location: Rogue Basin

This work will occur on:  Public Lands  Private Lands  Both Public & Private Lands

**MISSION:**

The Rogue Basin Partnership's (RBP) mission is to unite people in restoring the Rogue by strategically investing in the stewardship of our basin and by harnessing collective power to support healthy watersheds and vibrant communities. As part of this mission, the RBP is collaborating with the Rogue Native Plant Partnership (RNPP). RNPP aims to facilitate diverse resilient ecosystems in tandem with a more robust native plant materials economy in the Rogue Basin by taking on many of the challenges in the native plant procurement process. RNPP aims to simplify the native plant procurement process for its partner organizations by coordinating current native plant inventories, seed collection efforts and grower contracting.

**GOALS:**

1. Facilitate an increased supply of genetically appropriate native plant materials in the Rogue Basin by leveraging the skills, expertise, and resources among various land managers and local growers
2. Simplify the native plant procurement process and increase cost-effectiveness by providing a centralized structure for wild seed collection and grow-out contracting
3. Develop basin-wide recommendations and best management practices for native plant production and out-planting

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Establish the Rogue Native Plant Partnership
2. Develop habitat-specific species priorities
3. Build and maintain a centralized database of locally available native plant materials
4. Coordinate seed collection and grow-out efforts among partner organizations
5. Provide technical assistance to land managers, growers, and the public

**TECHNICAL APPROACH:**

(Describe the details of the project, the procedures to be used, how data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted, etc. Discuss expected goals and outcomes and how project effectiveness will be measured and evaluated. Include a detailed project work plan narrative and a table such as below to summarize the project schedule.)

## Work Plan

1. **Develop the Rogue Native Plant Partnership:** This part of the project is already underway. The Rogue Native Plant Partnership will eventually serve as a central location for agencies, NGO's and members of the public to purchase native plant materials and for growers to receive technical and financial support. To build our organizational structure we plan to: hold quarterly meetings, have all founding member organizations draft and sign a memorandum of understanding, and develop an interim and 5-year action plan. The coordinator will plan and facilitate all meetings, distribute meeting notes, and write draft language for various organizational documents.
2. **Work with partner organizations to develop seed collection and grow-out priorities:** The coordinator will leverage the collectively managed database with input from partner organizations to identify species that are of high priority and low availability in the region on a per-habitat type basis.
3. **Facilitate grow-out contracts between partner organizations and local native plant producers:** The partnership will work towards writing new contracts for native plant materials with growers in the Rogue Basin and nearby areas. These contracts will be developed so as to benefit both the growers and the partner organizations requiring plant materials. Once grow-out contracts have been established and the native plant materials are merchantable, partner organizations will have the opportunity to purchase native plant materials through the partnership.
4. **Compile a database of locally available native plant materials:** The coordinator will work with partner organizations and growers to compile an up-to date centralized database of the native plant materials available in the Rogue River Basin. This database will be updated regularly and will be made available to all partner organizations via the partnership website.
5. **Develop an up-to-date map of current seed collection sites used by partner organizations in the region:** The coordinator will work with partner organizations who collect wild seed to compile collection records into an interactive GIS-based map. This map will be used to track collections over time and facilitate the responsible shared use of native plant populations in the region.
6. **Collect seed from priority species within the region:** The partnership will oversee multiple seed collection efforts per year in order to increase the supply of identified high-priority species in the region.
7. **Provide technical assistance to land managers, growers and the public:** A subcommittee of ecologists and botanists will work together to develop several technical documents. These documents will be intended to guide the use of seed transfer zones, advise growers on propagation techniques, and inform partners about seeding and out-planting best practices. In order to engage the public, an annual native plant sale will be held with opportunities for education on landscaping with native species and planting pollinator gardens.

## Expected Accomplishments:

- Improved communication between partner organizations and growers
- List of species that are not locally available but in high demand
- Centralized coordination of grow-out contracts for partner organization projects
- 1 part-time coordinator position
- Increased volume of local native plant production

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT:**

### *Job creation:*

This partnership will benefit the local community by creating a part-time coordinator position. In addition, by bridging the gap between land manager native plant needs and grower risk, the creation of this collective will help to grow the native plant industry in the Rogue Basin.

### *Education:*

Part of the mission of our collective is to help educate local communities on the ecological and economic aspects of native plant production. To meet this goal, we aim to work with local schools to develop and augment native plant nursery programs as well as host several education oriented seed collection events every year.

### *Ecosystem Services:*

Increased native plant diversity leads to resistance to weed invasions, pollinator habitat enhancement, and watershed resilience. By supporting both land managers and growers, a greater diversity of appropriate native plant materials will be used on federal, state and private lands.

### *Recreation:*

More diverse native plant installations will serve to improve wildlife forage and support hunting and fishing activities.

## **QUALIFICATIONS & PAST PERFORMANCE:**

(List key personnel and their responsibilities. Describe similar successful projects completed in the past and any unique qualifications your organization may possess.)

### **Kathryn Prive: RNPP Coordinator Duties**

- Plan and facilitate partnership meetings and events
- Distribute meeting agendas and notes
- Compile partner input in order to develop MOU's and 5-year strategic plan
- Maintain an up-to-date wild seed collection maps
- Build and maintain plant materials database
- Coordinate seed collection efforts among partners
- Administrate grow-out contracts
- Build and maintain partnership website

Kathryn has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from the University of Oregon and will complete her master of science degree in ecology from Oregon State University in December of 2017. Kathryn is well versed in all aspects of the native plant procurement and grow-out process with specialization in seed transfer zones, ecological restoration, and botany. In addition to her education in ecology, Kathryn has worked as a volunteer coordinator, project manager, webmaster, and fundraiser.

RBP will serve as the fiscal agent for this project. RBP will oversee the RNPP Coordinator and will track and monitor project deliverables. As the backbone organization for restoration projects in the Rogue Basin, RBP has a proven track record of managing projects that involve numerous partners and span broad geographical reaches. For the past five years, RBP has served as the fiscal agent for the Jackson and Josephine Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs). Given that the structure of the CMWAs is similar to that of the RNPP, RBP already has a structure in place for managing such a board and diverse partnership.