

**2017 - 2018 SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS
PUBLIC LAW 114-10, SECTION 524
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM
USDA FOREST SERVICE**

Name of Resource Advisory Committee: Oregon Siskiyou
Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):
Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2017-2018

2. Project Name: Growing Native Plants Through Collaboration	3a. State: OR 3b. County(s): Curry Co.
4. Project Submitted By: The Rogue Basin Partnership / Kathryn Alexander	5. Date: March 1, 2017
6. Contact Phone Number: 541-414-9064	7. Contact E-mail: info@roguepartners.org

8. Project Location:	
a. National Forest(s): Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest	b. Forest Service District: Gold Beach / Powers
c. Location (Township-Range-Section): District wide	

<p>9. Project Goals and Objectives:</p> <p>Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate a sustainable and reliable supply of native plant materials to federal and state agencies as well as local non-governmental organizations and the public 2. Streamline the native plant materials procurement process by centralizing seed collection efforts and grow-out contracting among partner organizations 3. Increase diversity and genetic appropriateness of locally-available native plant materials 4. Provide technical and financial support to local native plant producers <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build and manage a database containing regionally available native plant materials 2. Develop species priorities based on input from partner organizations 3. Coordinate seed collection and grow-out of collectively identified priority species

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: Rogue Native Plant Materials Collective: Native Species Production Through Collaboration

b. Detailed: There is an increasing demand in the Rogue Basin for locally sourced native plant materials. This is especially the case in Curry County. These native species are needed to restore ecosystems after fire and other disturbance, provide habitat for pollinators and wildlife, and deliver ecosystem services. Unfortunately, this growing demand is not always met with the appropriate supply of native plant materials. This deficit has negative impacts on wildlife, pollinators, and recreation.

Despite the growing need for native plant materials, the barriers to increasing the local production of native plant species are numerous. The planning and coordination required to successfully source and produce appropriate native plant materials is a complex and time-consuming task. In order to produce these plants, project plans and species priorities must be established, seed must be collected from the wild and a contract must be drafted to have the plants grown-out.

Native plant production presents unique challenges to growers. The grow-out phase often requires a multi-year commitment from growers and a willingness to experiment with propagation protocols for new species. This can be problematic because many agencies see year-to-year fluctuations in their budgets and severe fire and flooding events make multi-year planning difficult. In addition, more diverse plant mixes for restoration activities often requires the use of small lots. These small lots are less desirable to growers because of the added risk and complexity of managing many different species as opposed to a few common ones. These challenges often make it difficult for growers to achieve a stable business strategy and may also deter new farms from expanding into the native plant production arena.

Because of this intricacy, it is often far easier for land managers and growers to rely on a few “workhorse species” that are moderately appropriate in a wide range of scenarios, than it is to source and grow the right species. It is becoming clear however that this simplistic approach, based on a few common species, does not adequately support pollinators or wildlife and may inadvertently reduce resiliency and diversity on public lands.

We at the Rogue Basin Partnership are currently working with a group of land managers from across the Rogue Basin to build a formal partnership between federal agencies, NGO’s, private growers and others called the Rogue Native Plant Materials Collective. The group 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. This partnership will simplify the native plant procurement process for its partner organizations by coordinating current native plant inventories, seed collection efforts and grower contracting.

Project Components:

- 1. Develop native plant materials collective (no funding requested under Title II):** This part of the project is already underway. The Rogue Native Plant Materials Collective 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. By bridging the gap between the native plant needs of land managers in the Rogue Basin, and the risks incurred by growers to produce them, both our local ecosystems and economies benefit. Partial funding has been secured for a part-time coordinator position through the BLM and partner meetings are ongoing to continue to develop this collective.
- 2. Compile a database of locally available native plant materials (partial funding requested under Title II):** 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. The funds requested under Title II will be used to collect and organize these data in partnership with Forest Service botanists in Curry County and the local growers they contract with.
- 3. Develop an up-to-date map of current seed collection sites used by partner organizations in the region (partial funding requested under Title II):** 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. The funds requested under Title II will be used to compile existing seed collection locations in Curry County in conjunction with Forest Service botanists and also identify priority species population locations for future collections.
- 4. Collect seed for priority species in Josephine and Curry Counties as well as other areas within the region (partial funding requested under Title II):** The collective will hire and train 2-3 seasonal seed collection personnel. Title II funds will be used to collect priority species on US Forest Service land in consultation with Curry County Forest Service botanists.
- 5. Facilitate grow-out contracts between partner organizations and local native plant producers (partial funding requested under Title II):** The collective 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 collective.

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, several seasonal seed collection jobs and increased volume of local native plant production

11. Types of Lands Involved?
State/Private/Other lands involved? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Land Status: Tribal, state and private lands held by collective members
If Yes, specify: See above

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)
Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure
Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Restores and improves land health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Restores water quality

13. Project Type	
a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)	
Road Maintenance	Trail Maintenance
Road Decommission/Obliteration	Trail Obliteration
Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
Soil Productivity Improvement	Forest Health Improvement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Watershed Restoration & Maintenance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Habitat Restoration
Fish Habitat Restoration	Control of Noxious Weeds
Reestablish Native Species <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
Implement CWPP Project	Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1):	

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved:
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved: (TBD) Depends on extent of partner projects
Acres of native species reestablished: (TBD) Depends on extent of partner projects
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment
Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved: (TBD) Depends on extent of partner projects
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated (mbf):
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: 0.14 FTE*
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):
Direct economic activity benefit: This project will create a stronger support network for local growers and improve the potential for growth in this field.
Other:

* 0.14 FTE based on Title II funds only. Project total FTE = 0.92

15. Estimated Project Start Date: April 1 2017

16. Estimated Project Completion Date: Dec. 15 2018

17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

The Rogue Native Plant Materials Collective is being built to mirror successful native plant materials partnerships in other parts of the state including the Willamette Valley Native Plant Materials Partnership (www.wvcoop.nativeplantnetwork.org) and the Rivers to Ridges Partnership that helps to coordinate native plant material procurement in the West Eugene Wetlands (www.rivers2ridges.org).

Since August 2016, a group of agencies, private growers and NGO's in the Rogue Basin have been working together to better meet the the growing native plant materials needs in the region. Additional financial support for this project is expected from the Bureau of Land Management Medford District and the US Forest Service Rogue Siskiyou National Forest. The collective is currently working with the following organizations to streamline and sustain the seed collection and native plant procurement process.

Federal Partner Organizations:

Army Corps of Engineers
BLM Medford District
J. Hebert Stone Nursery
NRCS
USFS Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest
USFS Powers / Gold Beach districts
USFWS

State Partner Organizations:

ODA Rare Plant Program
ODFW
ODOT
Oregon State Parks
OSU Extension

NGO's and Tribal Partner Organizations:

Cow Creek Tribe
Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council
Freshwater Trust
Lomakatsi Restoration Project
Seven Basins Watershed Council
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy
Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

Private Partner Organizations:

Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seeds
Silver Springs Nursery
Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association

18. Identify benefits to communities.

Job creation:

This partnership will benefit the local community by creating a part-time coordinator position position to build database, compile partner plant needs, recruit and train seed collection crew and facilitate collective meetings and events. The collective will also hire several seasonal seed collection personnel from the local community. Lastly, 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.

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 in tandem 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.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

- Access to a greater variety of genetically appropriate native plant materials through collaboration with member organizations
- Reduced risk of redundant seed collection activities on federal lands
- Reduced plant material costs through collectively managed plant procurement

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
Contract <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Workforce
County Workforce	Volunteers
Grant	Agreement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
AmeriCorps	YCC/CCC Crews
Job Corps	Stewardship Contract
Merchantable Timber Pilot	Other (specify): Partnership

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber? Yes No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$10,000 (partial funding ok)
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:

Additional financial support for this project is expected from the Bureau of Land Management Medford District (\$40,000) and the US Forest Service Rogue Siskiyou National Forest (\$5,000). These funds will be used to serve the partners in other areas within the Rogue Basin. In addition, \$20,000 in RAC Title II funds are being requested in Josephine Co. but are not included in the budget as they are pending approval.

24. Monitoring Plan:

The seed collection crew will receive training and oversight from project the coordinator and partner organizations in order to ensure that collection efforts comply with Seeds of Success collection and labeling protocols. Periodic visits by the coordinator (2 visits per year or more) to plant producers' fields will be arranged to check on quality and quantity of plant materials and provide technical support. In addition, a detailed GIS map will be maintained documenting past and current seed collection locations, and the volume of seed collected each year. Lastly, the current status of collection efforts, database management, grower contracting, and species priority setting will be communicated to the partner organizations at quarterly meetings, through an annual accomplishment report, and the collective website (www.roguenativeplants.org *currently under construction*).

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.

Other, please explain:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Forest Supervisor

National Forest

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	Column B Requested Title II Contribution	Column C Other Contributions	Column D Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys				
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering				
f. Grower Contract Preparation		1,000	2,000	3,000
g. Contract/Grant Administration		1,000		1,000
h. Contract/Grant Cost				
i. Salaries		5,750	36,500	42,250
j. Materials & Supplies				
k. Monitoring		1,250	2,000	3,250
l. Other Partner Indirect Cost			4,500	4,500
m. Project Sub-Total		9,000	45,000	54,000
n. FS Indirect Costs		1,000		1,000
Total Cost Estimate		10,000		55,000

Title II Budget Item Descriptions:

NEPA requirements will be met by partner organizations if applicable.

Salaries: \$5,750 requested

Part-time coordinator: \$5,000 (\$25/hr x 200 hours) for services listed below

- Database creation
- GIS seed collection map creation and maintenance
- Website creation
- Consultation with district botanists
- Seed crew hiring and training
- Consultation with current and potential growers
- Plant materials contracting

Seed collection: \$750 (\$15/hr x 50 hours)

Monitoring: \$1,250 requested

- 2 site visits per farm (\$25/hr x 20 hours = \$500)
- Annual report (\$25/hr x 10 hours over 2 years = \$250)
- Seed collection protocol training and monitoring (\$25/hr x 10 hours = \$250)
- GIS seed collection map updates (\$25/hr x 10 hours = \$250)

NOTES:

- Pre-NEPA Costs
- Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.
- Cost of implementing project
- Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.
- Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed

February 28, 2017

USDA Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
Virginia Gibbons, Public Affairs and Partnerships
3040 Biddle Rd
Medford OR 97504

Subject: Letter of Support for “Growing Native Species Through Collaboration”, Siskiyou RAC Title II Application

To: Title II Application Reviewers

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) strongly supports the goals of the Rogue Native Plant Materials Collaborative (RNPMC) and their “Growing Native Species Through Collaboration” Title II application. TNC has successfully worked with many of the 23 RNPMC partners to protect and restore habitats in southwest Oregon for over 35 years. We recognize the global significance of our diverse native flora and believe that maintaining sustainable, cost-effective and genetically appropriate sources of native plant materials is a key element of effective conservation. Currently without a supply of appropriate native plant materials either restoration goals are not met, or inappropriate sources of seed and container plants are used – both outcomes ultimately threaten the health of our plant communities, pollinators and wildlife as well as water quality and soil productivity.

The Rogue Native Plant Materials Collective is modelled after the highly successful West Eugene Wetlands Native Plant Materials Partnership and Willamette Valley Native Plant Materials Partnership. TNC is a member of both of these groups with over 20 other federal, state and local agencies, NGO’s and producers. Demonstrated benefits include the production of thousands of pounds of diverse, genetically-appropriate seed and plant stock, securing contracts with local seed collectors and nurseries, and cost efficiencies through shared partner resources.

Large upcoming landscape management projects on federal lands such as the Shasta-Hughes Project and the Elk River Project in Curry County and the Briggs Valley and Pickett-West Project in Josephine County will require significant amounts of native plant materials. To provide the “seeds for success” for oak and forest understory restoration, soil stabilization, wildlife and pollinator habitat enhancement, and many other activities on federal and partner lands, we recommend funding the “Growing Native Species Through Collaboration” proposal.

Sincerely,



Keith Perchemlides
Southwest Oregon Field Ecologist



= Life in Balance
RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS & SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES

February 24, 2017

**Re: Growing Native Species through Collaboration
RAC Title II Application
Letter of Support**

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in support of the "Growing Native Species through Collaboration" project proposed by the Rogue Basin Partnership. The organizations involved in the proposed project have a proven history of working collaboratively in several domains of ecological restoration. Our organization, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, has partnered with federal agencies and other NGO's in the region to restore threatened oak woodland habitats, reduce severe fire risks to local communities, enhance pollinator habitat, and revegetate riparian corridors with native vegetation. The common thread in each of these endeavors has been partnership. Working together to pool financial and technical resources has been critical to the successful restoration of thousands of acres of habitat, which has in turn spurred the creation of dozens of restoration jobs in southwest Oregon.

One critical piece of the restoration process is the outplanting of native plants, whether in the form of seeds, container, or bare root stock. However, as our region is incredibly biologically diverse, it is important that the appropriate species, sourced from the appropriate sites, are grown and utilized. The expense of this process is often prohibitive to both NGO's and governmental agencies. We have consistently found that genetically appropriate plants are difficult to come by and that local growers are hesitant to invest in the production of plants which may or may not be in high demand. A collaborative effort to collect seed, manage a central database of local plant materials, communicate with native plant growers, and share costs would complement perfectly the numerous other restoration collaborations that are currently occurring in our region.

Josephine and Curry counties have been particularly neglected in the accumulation of locally adapted native plant materials. Funding the proposed project will begin to ameliorate this problem, and will help kick start an effort to provide consistent demand for local growers, create seed collection and processing jobs, and help partnering organizations accomplish effective restoration work. Because of this, Lomakatsi Restoration Project highly recommends the Growing Native Species through Collaboration project for consideration by the Resource Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Marko Bey
Executive Director



SOUTHERN OREGON MONARCH ADVOCATES

Taking steps to foster future generations of Monarchs ~ The migration continues!



February 25, 2017

USDA Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
Virginia Gibbons, Public Affairs and Partnerships
3040 Biddle Rd
Medford OR 97504

Subject: Support for the Rogue Native Plant Materials Collective

Ms Gibbons and Other Reviewers:

The Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates (SOMA) support the concept to create a mechanism to organize the growth, dispersion, successful implementation of native pollinator plants locally, and encourage you to fund this Rogue Native Plant Collective.

The plight of our western Monarch population, as well as all of our pollinators, is taking front and center stage at the moment. This provides us all with a unique opportunity-- and responsibility. We must collectively reach out and establish a stronger infrastructure for vegetative restoration; and native milkweed and other nectar-bearing plants must be included in that restoration.

SOMA began programs to include our local plant producers, work crews, and organizations in restoration efforts years ago. "Local", "Native", and "Sustainable", are not just words to us. We understand that the planning and coordination required to successfully source and produce appropriate native plant materials is a complex and time-consuming task. Clearly, a "Work Group", or collaborative is needed. And such a collaborative will need a strong lead entity that is familiar with organizing and empowering many partners while also prioritizing and managing funds and actions. The Rogue Basin Partnership is looked upon throughout the state with respect as such an organization.

Finally, SOMA is involved with restoration activities throughout Oregon and northern California, from summit to sea. We encourage you to provide funding for this Collaborative in Josephine, Curry, and Jackson counties.

Thank you in advance for the funding - not only from SOMA, but more importantly from our western Monarch population and other pollinators who do not have a voice.

Sincerely,

Robert Coffan, Co-Founder

Thanks for your support!



www.SOMonarchs.org