

NATIVE PLANT MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Wildfires have always been a part of land management; however, since 1999, millions of acres of federal lands are burning each year. Predominantly due to invasive species, the fire cycle in the western U.S. has changed from once every 40 years to once every 7 years. With the increase in fires comes the increased need for native seed to rehabilitate and restore the land.

As directed by Congress, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and USDA Forest Service (FS) are working through PCA to develop a long-term native plant materials program. This program promotes cooperation between federal agencies and partners to identify and develop native plants for the stabilization and rehabilitation of burned lands and native species that can combat invasive plant establishment. PCA is helping to ensure a stable and economical supply of native plant materials for restoration.

BLM and FS are working with more than 300 federal botanists, state and tribal botanists, local commercial growers, and botanical gardens to develop seed transfer zones for native grasses, to conduct plant selection and increase for 50 Great Basin forbs, identify species important for sage-grouse habitat restoration, and to establish common garden studies.

As part of the Native Plant Materials Program, PCA joined forces with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to collect native plant seed for the Millennium Seed Bank. The program within the United States is known as *Seeds of Success* and its partners have collected wildland seeds from over a thousand species.



LEFT: Black Cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*) is one of the medicinal plants covered by MPWG's inventory & monitoring conservation projects using volunteers.

COVER: A Student Conservation Association intern in Arizona picks seeds of ashy silktassel (*Garrya flavescens*) for the Seeds of Success program.

INSIDE: The federally listed endangered plant, *Arctostaphylos hookeri* ssp. *ravenii*.

PCA GRANT PROGRAM

Since 1995, PCA has worked with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to fund a challenge grant program for plant conservation issues. This program has funded more than 300 projects totaling over \$14 million in plant conservation work on or near federal lands. To learn more, go to www.nps.gov/plants/nfwf/.

PCA Federal Members include:

Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Highway Administration, National Park Service, USDA Agricultural Research Service, USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey.

PCA's Cooperators include:

Over 260 botanical gardens, native plant societies, trade and professional associations, businesses, educational groups, nonprofits, landscape architects, local government and tribal agencies.

PCA is the North American Plant Specialist Group

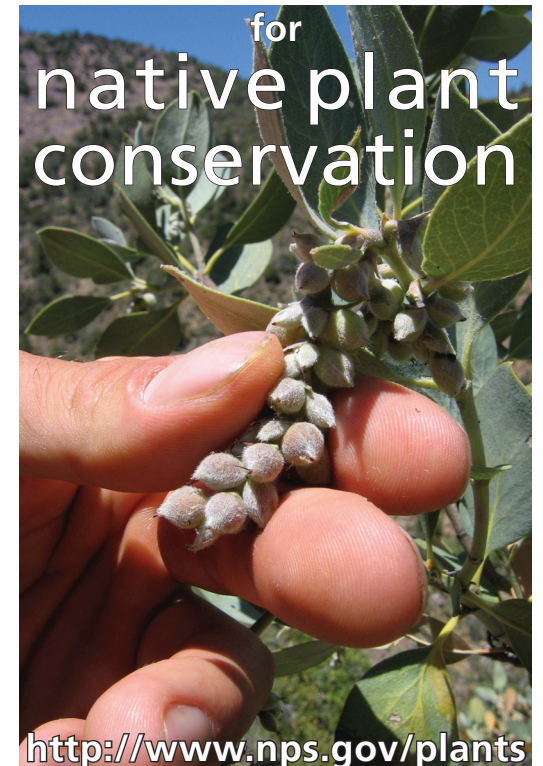
IUCN

The World Conservation Union SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION



Plant Conservation Alliance

FINDING SOLUTIONS

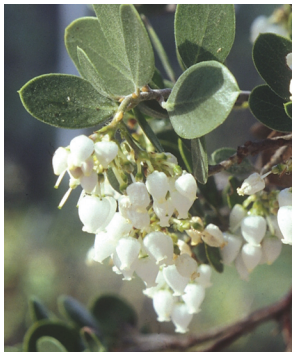


<http://www.nps.gov/plants>

PLANT CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

What is PCA? It is a public-private partnership of organizations that share the same goal: to protect native plants by ensuring that native plant populations and their communities are maintained, enhanced, and restored.

PCA is a collaborative partnership among 10 federal agency Members and more than 260 non-federal Cooperators representing various organizations, such as botanic gardens, universities, educational groups,



state agencies, businesses, professional societies, trade associations, native plant societies, and garden clubs. PCA Members and Cooperators work collaboratively to solve the

problems of native plant conservation and native habitat restoration, ensuring the sustainability of our ecosystems. The depth and strength of PCA is in the scientific expertise, networking, and the ability to pool resources to protect, conserve, and restore our national plant heritage for generations to come.

To accomplish its goals, PCA has a federal committee, a non-governmental organization committee and five working groups. In addition, PCA also serves as the North American Plant Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Federal Committee chair and North American Plant Specialist Group chair: **Peggy Olwell**, peggy_olwell@blm.gov

NGO Committee chair: **Kathryn Kennedy**, kathryn.kennedy@mobot.org

ALIEN PLANT WORKING GROUP

Non-native, invasive species are one of the major causes of the decline in native plant communities.

APWG teams up with a variety of partners, from individuals to organizations, to provide educational materials. This is done largely through the “Weeds Gone Wild” website. Their work includes:

- Fact sheets written for the general public
- Invasive plant list
- Listserve and network of professional contacts
- Coordination of efforts with other organizations such as Exotic Pest Plant Councils and the National Invasive Species Council

Web: www.nps.gov/plants/alien/

RESTORATION WORKING GROUP

Because millions of acres of natural landscapes have been disturbed and many species are in decline, collaboration is vital to restoring native plant habitats and promoting species recovery.

RWG facilitates numerous restoration related projects with a diverse range of partners. Projects include:

- Directories of restoration experts and native plant suppliers with the Society for Ecological Restoration and others
- National plant conservation directory and an intensive plant conservation training workshop with the Center for Plant Conservation

Other notable efforts include collaboration with the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign and the establishment of native plant materials development programs.

Web: www.nps.gov/plants/restore/

MEDICINAL PLANT WORKING GROUP

Medicinal plants present unique conservation challenges because there is a need to preserve them while ensuring their continued availability.

MPWG brings together diverse groups of people, including Native Americans, industry, and academia to exchange information and facilitate sustainable use and conservation of medicinal plants. Efforts include:

- Facilitating networking on existing projects
- Identifying needs
- Initiating activities such as an industry symposium on promoting sustainability
- Working with the IUCN Medicinal Plant Specialist Group and other groups

Web: www.nps.gov/plants/medicinal/

PUBLIC OUTREACH WORKING GROUP

Plants are the source of food, fiber, fuel, fragrance, and pharmaceuticals. While leaders in the scientific community know the importance of plant conservation, it is clear there is a great need for the general public to understand the value of plant conservation.

POWG works to educate people about plants by bringing together a variety of materials to educate the public. Development continues on:

- Written materials – brochures, bookmarks, posters, guidebooks
- Traveling exhibit highlighting the success stories of work by federal agencies and their partner organizations
- Celebrating Wildflowers events across the nation in conjunction with government agencies, botanical gardens, zoos, and others

Web: under construction