

King Range Native Perennial Bunchgrass Program[®]

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Limited stands of historically abundant California native perennial bunchgrass remain in California wild landscapes. Many of these wild landscapes have been subject to a century or more of livestock grazing and decades of fire suppression. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in partnership with the Mattole Restoration Council (MRC), has inventoried, mapped, collected, and propagated seed of 11 native perennial bunchgrasses in order to generate enough seed and standing nursery capacity for on-the-ground restoration projects. Through partnership, the BLM has utilized native perennial bunchgrass material to: (1) create an in situ seed bank for study and future seed collection, (2) develop and provide sufficient local seed supply for a hydroseeding project following the 2008 Paradise Fire, and (3) produce nursery capacity to thus far transplant 64,622 plugs of prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), leafy reed grass (*Calamagrostis foliosa*), Pacific hairgrass [*Deschampsia holciformis* (syn. *Deschampsia cespitosa* ssp. *holciformis*)], California melic (*Melica californica*), and Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), following the 2007 Spanish Fire, and also in November of 2009–2010 as part of Paradise Ridge and Prosper Prairie native perennial grass enhancement projects. The BLM is committed to actively managing events responsible for resuming successional processes that may favor colonial establishment of transplanted perennial grasses. The King Range Native Perennial Bunchgrass Program has demonstrated that successful establishment of new native perennial bunchgrass colonies can be accomplished through the propagation of locally collected seed followed by transplantation of plugs.