

Restoring native grasses after fire in the Wenatchee area

Definition

Establish permanent vegetation on sites that have or are expected to have high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical, or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.

Purpose / Objectives

Stabilize areas with existing or potential high rates of erosion by water.

Background Information

Sometimes reseeding is not necessary because the fire was not hot enough to actually kill the crown of the grass. You'll know that you don't need to reseed if the grasses regrow from their burned crowns.

Site Preparation for Seeding

Rake site immediately prior to seeding to give seed better seed to soil contact.

Seed Mixture

The below seeding is a native mix. If you prefer non-natives that will colonize faster, or if you have extremely steep slopes, please contact our office for a special mix.

Common name & Scientific name	Variety	Pure live seed (lbs./acre)
Big bluegrass (<i>Poa secunda</i>)	Sherman	0.75
Snake River wheatgrass (<i>Elymus wawawaiensis</i>)	Secar	5
Thickspike wheatgrass (<i>Elymus lanceolatus</i>)	Bannock or Critana	3
Western yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)		0.1
Sandburg bluegrass (<i>Poa secunda</i>)	<3,000' elev. collected from a local area (WA, OR, or ID)	0.75

Seeding Operation

1. Save 1/3 of the seed to re-seed bare areas in the future. Place seed to save in plastic bag and place in a cool dry location to retain seed viability.
2. After site has been raked, broadcast seed. Hydro-seeding is preferred. If hydro-seeding is not an option, cover the area walking back and forth going first east-west with 1/3 of total seed and then north-south using another 1/3 of the seed. The remainder of the seed has been saved for the future.
3. Timing – late October to early November and prior to first snowfall.
4. It would be ideal to mulch the site after seeding if hydro-seeding was not done.

Follow-up treatment

1. If the site erodes during winter, re-rake, and reseed eroded areas in early spring.
2. Every following October-November, re-rake and reseed bare areas until completely vegetated.

Tree & Shrub Planting List

After two growing seasons you will know what has survived the fire. The list below is a starting point in selecting trees and shrubs for your property. To ensure plant hardiness, make sure that planting stock has been grown outside and not in a greenhouse.

Trees

Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)

Shrubs

antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentate*) (grows well in droughty, dry areas)
blue elderberry (*Sambucus ceruela*) (prefers a moister location, like a draw)
serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) (plant in or near seeps, springs, or draws)
snowberry (*Symphoricarpus albus*) (plant in or near seeps, springs, or draws)
threetip sagebrush (*Artemisia tripartita*) (grows well in droughty, dry areas)

Wildflowers (observed on site – there are many other species that could work)

lupine – silky or spur (*Lupinus sericeus* or *Lupinus laxiflorus*)
arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*)
Thompson's paintbrush (*Castilleja thompsonii*)
Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
Buckwheats (*Eriogonoms*)

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