National Park Service Policies for Seed collections and use

Greg Eckert Restoration Ecologist National Park Service Natural Resources Stewardship and Science Directorate



Organic Act 1916

The National Park Service was created in the Organic Act of 1916. The new agency's mission as managers of national parks and monuments was clearly stated.

"....to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

3-level Directives System

Level 1 Management Policies

• Broad framework; direction & parameters for management decisions

Level 2 Director's Orders

- Detailed interpretation of Management Policies, delegate specific authorities and responsibilities,
- May articulate new or revised policy on an interim basis between publications of *Management Policies*.

Level 3 Reference Manuals and Handbooks

• Comprehensive information in support of field and programmatic operations.

Key Sections of Management Policies Conserve and Restore Species

Natural resources will be managed to preserve fundamental physical and biological processes, as well as individual species, features, and plant and animal communities.

The Service recognizes that natural processes and species are evolving, and the Service will allow this evolution to continue—minimally influenced by human actions.

Key Sections of Management Policies Genetic Resource Management Principles

The Service will strive to protect the full range of genotypes of native ... populations ... by perpetuating natural evolutionary processes and minimizing human interference with evolving genetic diversity.

The restoration ... will be accomplished using organisms taken from populations as closely related genetically and ecologically as possible to park populations, preferably from similar habitats in adjacent or local areas.



Key Sections of Management Policies Genetic Resource Management Principles

Deviations from this general policy may be made where the management goal is to increase the variability of the park gene pool to mitigate past, human-induced loss of genetic variability.



Traditional range of emphasis in management priorities

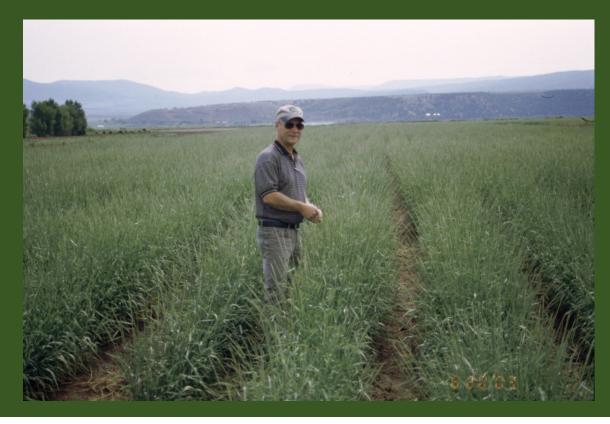




And possibly interpretation of Policies

Regulatory restrictions on engaging with increase programs

The commercial use or sale of natural products is prohibited by 36 CFR 2.1



Director's Order #77-10: Benefits sharing

Addresses benefits sharing stemming from research results derived from NPS-permitted research, and the relationship between benefits sharing and technology transfer resulting from NPS activities.



Living Collections

Biological material that is permanently retained *ex situ* for the purpose of generating and providing living or otherwise biologically active material for research, restoration, education or other purposes. Living collections are retained in an NPS or non-NPS repository, documented, and tracked. Items in a living collection may be collected specimens, or may originate directly from collected specimens, from Material, or from other biological material in the living collection.

Directors Order 100 Resource Stewardship for the 21st Century

Directs continued conservation management but under a context the continuous change

Emphasizes increased engagement in national and international networks of Protected Areas

Thank you

greg_eckert@nps.gov

www.nps.gov/policy





The preceding presentation was delivered at the

2017 National Native Seed Conference Washington, D.C. February 13-16, 2017

This and additional presentations available at <u>http://nativeseed.info</u>





