



**SEED INDUSTRY
PERSPECTIVES ON THE
NATIONAL NATIVE
SEED STRATEGY**

ROBBY HENES
SOUTHWEST SEED
DOLORES, CO



LOCATED ON THE INCOMPARABLE
COLORADO PLATEAU AND
A STONES THROW FROM THE LOVELY
UNCOMPAGHRE PLATEAU

NATIVE SEED STRATEGIES

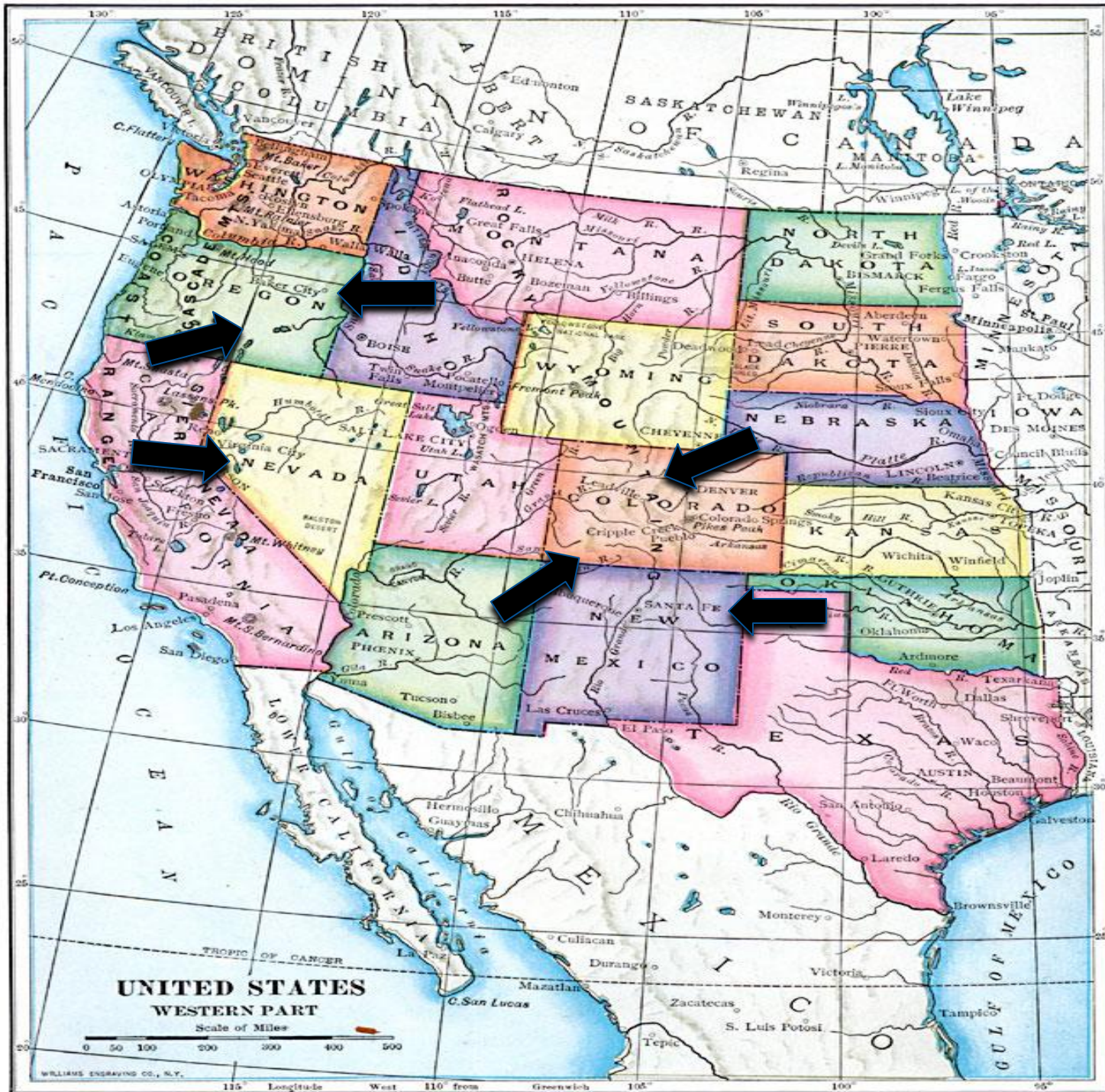
OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1.3: Increasing the supply and reliable availability of the right seed.
- Objective 2.2: Seed Technology, production, integrated pest management and storage techniques
- Objective 3.2: Increase access to seed availability information



SEED INDUSTRY PANEL

- Robby Henes – Southwest Seed – Dolores, CO
- Jerry Bensen – BFI Native Seed – Moses Lake, WA
- Steve Parr – Upper CO Environmental Plant Center
Meeker, CO
- Mark Mustoe – Clearwater Seed – Spokane, WA
- Ed Kleiner – Comstock Seed – Gardnerville, NV
- Blake Curtis – Curtis & Curtis Seed, Clovis, NM





OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PANEL

1. Share with participants insights into the challenges and realities of getting regionally specific native seed in large quantity (+50 lbs.)
2. Set the stage for good questions and discussion between seed producers and seed users so we all have realistic outcomes and potentials for the availability of ecotypic native species.

MAJOR AREAS

- Science – for all the research out there, a lot does not translate to successful agronomic attempts with Native seed.
- Agronomics – What does a farmer need to make native seed farming ‘successful’?
- Economics – The ability to provide the right seed can be either impossible or prohibitively expensive.
- Bureaucracy - matching the farming and collecting cycles to a federal budgeting world governed by political and financial and bureaucratic constraints can be impossible.

LOCAL ECOTYPE – IN THEORY IS AN
IMPORTANT CONCEPT. IN REALITY IT
BECOMES MUCH MORE PROBLEMATIC.

??? NATIVE???

NATIVE

MORE
NATIVE

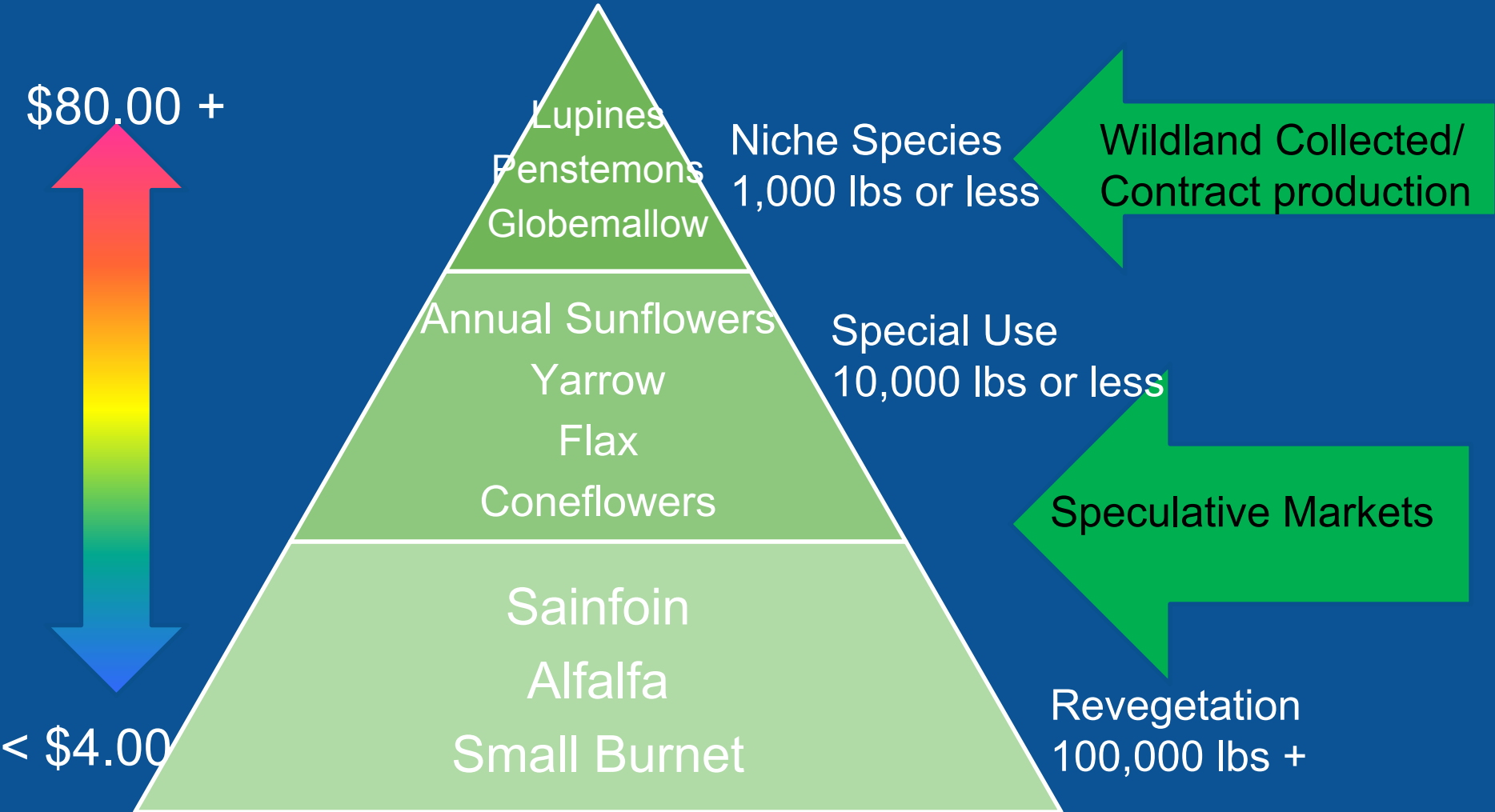
FOUNDATION
SEED

WORKHORSE
SPECIES

YIELDS

SPECIES	CULTIVAR AVERAGE	ECOTYPE AVERAGE	% CHANGE
WESTERN WHEATGR	500# acre	50# acre	10%
SLENDER WHEATGR	600# acre	405# acre	67%
MOUNTAIN BROME	600# acre	403# acre	67%
JUNEGRASS	300# acre	48# acre	11%

MARKET DEMAND FOR FORBS





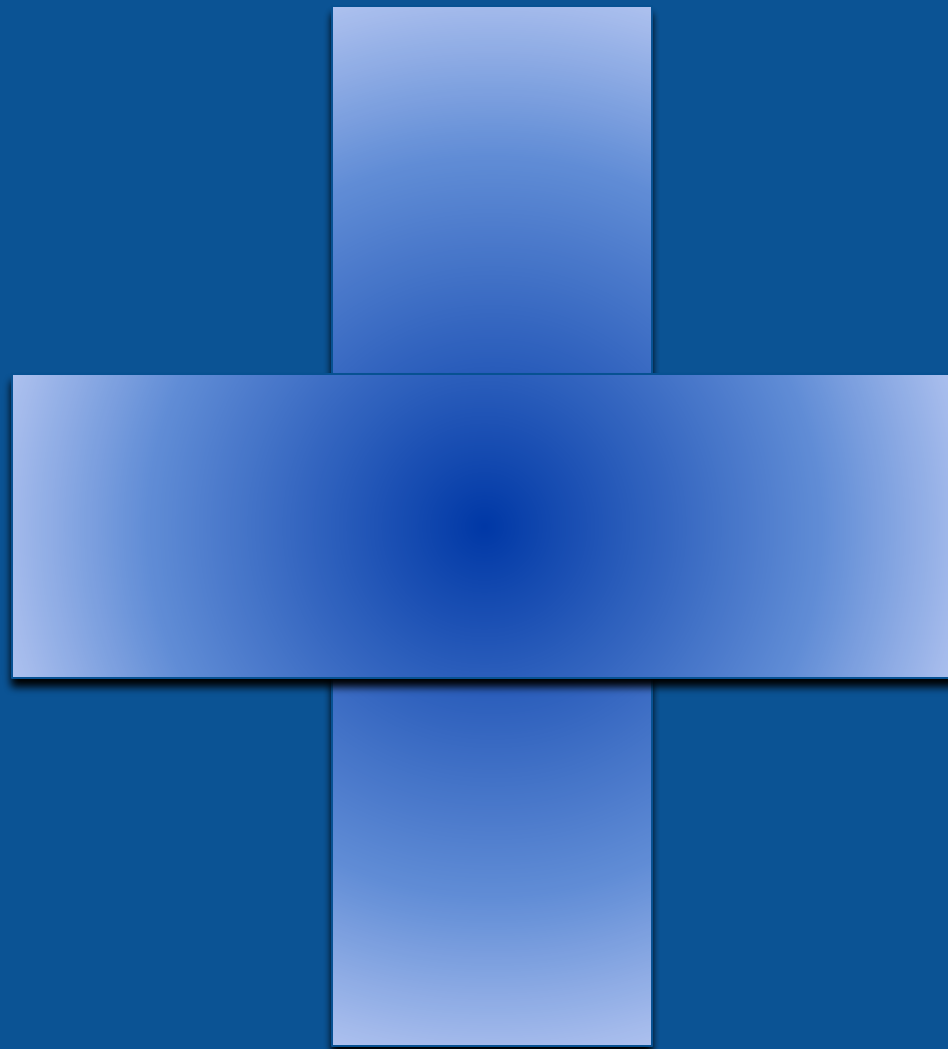
BREADTH
OF MARKET



TIMEFRAME



BREADTH
OF MARKET



TIMEFRAME

LEGEND



It's a bit 'hairy' but we think we have a winner.



No doubt about it. SCORE! We win!



We are underwater here and don't know what we have.



We wore ourselves out trying and still don't know the secret.



NIMF – Not In My Field!

EXPERIMENTS WE HAVE TRIED FOR SOMEONE

		Current decisions	
Woolly Plantain	<i>Plantago patagonica</i>	Has possibility - Perhaps needed heat to break dormancy.	
Shaggy Fleabane	<i>Erigeron pumilus</i>		
Purple Threeawn	<i>Aristida purpurea</i>	Has more problems than solutions	
Desert/Coyote Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana attenuata</i>	Has decent potential	
Western Meadow Aster	<i>Symphotricium campestre</i>	Very slight harvest - prognosis poor	
White Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>		

Horsetail Milkweed

Asclepias subverticillata

Spreading Fleabane

Erigeron divergens

Yellow Owls Clover

Orthocarpus luteus

Six Weeks Fescue

Vulpia octoflora tenella

NIMF



Has possibility - Perhaps needed heat

to break dormancy.



30% success after
three years

WOOLY LOCOWEED

Astragalus mollissimus

Has possibility -



KING'S LUPINE

Lupinus kingii



HANDSOME PENSTEMON

Penstemon Intus



SMALL FLOWER MILKVETCH

Astragalus nuttallianus



SHARPLEAF TWINPOD

Physaria acutifolia



WEDGELEAF DRABA

Draba cuneifolia



Other History

SALINA WILDRYE

Leymus salinus



BLUE PENSTEMON

Penstamen cyanus



NODDING BROME

Bromus anomalus



HOOKERS BALSAMROOT

Balsamorhiza hookerii



WILD FOUR O'CLOCK

Mirabulis multiflora



SEARLES PRAIRIE CLOVER

Dalea Searlsiae



BASALT MILKVETCH

Astragalus filipes



MOUNTAIN MUHLY

Muhlenbergia montana



SALADO ALKALI SACATON

Sporobolus airoides



AMERICAN VETCH

Vicia americana



BULBOUS SPRING PARSLEY

Cymopterus bulbosus



SPIKE DROPSEED

Sporobolus contractus



THURBER FESCUE

Festuca Thurberi

THURBER NEEDLEGRASS

Achnatherum thurberianum

MUTTONGRASS

Poa Fendeleriana

BLM BOTTLEBRUSH SQUIRRELTAIL

Elymus elymoides

BLM WESTERN WHEATGRASS

Agropyron smithii

WHITE RIVER SLENDER WHEATGRASS

Agropyron trachycaulum

WHITE RIVER MOUNTAIN BROME

Bromus montanus



TAKE AWAYS

- Communication! Communication!
- Failure is a normal part of the game
- We are most likely a bit more risk averse than you want
- We want uniformity, You want diversity
- The native seed industry is not one monolithic group but we do want to be providing high quality appropriate seed. But we are struggling to interpret all the ideas and needs as represented at this conference.
- We **ALWAYS** need a seat at the table and a strong push to make sure we take advantage of the seat at the table.



The preceding presentation was delivered at the

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

