



# Native Grass and Forb Seed Production Dryland (non-irrigated) Lands

Mark Mustoe  
Clearwater Seed

- It takes farmers and production agriculture to produce the millions of pounds of quality seed needed for restoration.
- Availability of good quality, proven, tested seed for planting (seed stock) is critical in producing reasonably-priced seed.

Producing seed needed for restoration by production ag takes major investments.

- \*Land

- \*Equipment

- \*Knowledge

- \*Fertilizer, Herbicides, Pesticides

- \*Labor

- \*Cash

- \*And above all, faith in Mother Nature







**Small Burnett**

Success Also Requires  
Pollinators



**Seedling Yarrow**





**White Dutch Clover**



# Little Sunflower





**Eski Sainfoin**



**Appar Blue Flax**

**Delar Small Burnett**



**Eagle White Yarrow**



**Native Blanketflower**

Less than 100 farmers in the Western US are producing 90% of the commercially produced (not hand-collected) species.

Most are family farms consisting of 1000-3000 acres.

Farmers have to be profitable to continue to provide the seed you need.





**Molate Native Red Fescue**



**Magnar Great Basin Wildrye**

# Goldar Bluebunch Wheatgrass





**Bottlebrush Squirreltail**

# Discovery Snake River Wheatgrass





**Sherman Big Bluegrass**

# Secar Snake River Wheatgrass



To help ensure a farmer's success we need the following:

1. Availability of clean, tested, proven seed stock
2. Seed with history for potential yields, seedling vigor, disease resistance, etc
3. Quantities of seed stock large enough to plant fields that allow economies of scale
4. With equipment and technology today, it takes the same amount of time to manage a 5-acre field as it does to manage a 50-acre field
5. Efficiencies allow for a more reasonably-priced seed to the end-user.





MacDon  
972 HARVEST HEADER









MSR 285  
116-10-916

**SELECTED GERMI ASM**  
Species: *Prinia collaris*  
Shimane, GERMANY  
Lot Number: 116-10-916  
Lab Number: 285  
Field Number: 116-10-916  
Date: 2018.8  
Member of ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL SEED CERTIFICATION AGENCIES

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The future of restoration rests on the success of family farms.

There is a fragile balance between what people want for plant material and what can be economically produced.

People wanting seed for restoration need to start making intelligent, practical decisions and establish policies which will help farmers continue to produce the seed needed for restoration.







The preceding presentation was delivered at the

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

