

# NATIONAL SEED STRATEGY

*For Rehabilitation & Restoration*

## 🌱 *Making Progress* 🌱

### GOAL 1



Identify seed needs, and ensure the reliable availability of genetically appropriate seed.

### GOAL 2



Identify research needs and conduct research to provide genetically appropriate seed and to improve technology for native seed production and ecosystem restoration.

### GOAL 3



Develop tools that enable managers to make timely, informed seeding decisions for ecological restoration.

### GOAL 4



Develop strategies for internal and external communication.

## 160 accomplishments reported (2015-2018)

Native plant materials are a valuable tool to address land management needs of post-disaster response and site stabilization, invasive plant management, and habitat improvements for numerous species. Federal agencies and partners developed the National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration 2015-2020 (Seed Strategy) and released it August 17, 2015. The overall goal of the Seed Strategy is to provide “the right seed in the right place at the right time.” This report identifies progress toward the four Seed Strategy goals achieved by individual partners of the Plant Conservation Alliance and a range of projects highlighting partnerships among federal, state, local, and non-government partners. The Seed Strategy calls for coordinated networks of diverse partners to accelerate the pace and scale of restoration. Implementation of the Seed Strategy at the right scale reflects the need to develop programmatic, ecological, and financial efficiencies. Various ecoregional approaches used by agencies, conservation organizations, and seed growers overlap with Seed Strategy topics, such as fire and fuel regimes, endangered species habitats, and genetic variation of plant species.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY THE NUMBERS

- GOAL ONE: 53
- GOAL TWO: 53
- GOAL THREE: 38
- GOAL FOUR: 16
  
- TOTAL: 160 REPORTED PROJECTS







## CASE STUDY: SOS EAST

Seeds of Success (SOS) is the national native seed collection program, led by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with numerous partners including Chicago Botanic Garden, New York City's Greenbelt Native Plant Nursery, New England Wildflower Society (NEWFS) and North Carolina Botanic Garden (NCBG). The mission is to increase the quality and quantity of native plant materials available for restoring and supporting resilient ecosystems.

In 2015, the SOS program saw a notable expansion in the eastern U.S. with a \$3.5 million award from the Department of Interior's Sandy Supplemental Mitigation fund for seed collection in coastal habitats.

Since 2015, the SOS East teams have made over 2100 collections of 345 unique taxa spanning 72 plant families from 11 states and 15 ecoregions.



## WAY FORWARD

In February 2017, more than 330 plant and seed conservation professionals met in Washington, D.C., for the National Seed Conference. During this conference, 12 task forces, identified needs to be addressed:

### Policy and Funding

- Develop ways to incorporate seed needs in ecological restoration as an adaptation mechanism and insurance policy in response to wildfires, hurricanes, and other extreme weather events

### Research and Tools

- Develop basic guidance and communication for land managers who may not yet consider native species
- Develop consistency for seed collections across the U.S.

### Communication

- Bring together public and private sector land managers and seed growers to improve seed development partnerships

## GOAL 1 & 2

Combined for over

# 100 projects



## OBJECTIVE 1.3

Increase the Supply and Reliable Availability of Genetically Appropriate Seed

The most accomplished objective of the Seed Strategy with

# 28 projects

For more information and a copy of the National Seed Strategy: *Making Progress* visit [BLM.gov/SeedStrategy](http://BLM.gov/SeedStrategy)