

# Umpqua Native Plant Partnership

## General/Stakeholder Meeting NOTES

Monday, October 18 · 2:00 – 4:00pm

### Attendees (19 total)

- Clint Emerson - US Forest Service
- Alison Manwaring - US Fish & Wildlife Partners Program
- CaLee Davenport - US Fish & Wildlife Partners Program
- Sam Freidman - US Fish &
- Haley Smith - Dorena Genetic Resource Center (Forest Service)
- Justy Grinter - BLM botanist and invasive plants lead
- Donna Rawson - Native Plant Society (Umpqua chapter)
- Richard Rawson- Douglas Co. Small Woodlands Association
- MA - Native Plant Society (Umpqua chapter)
- Rhonda Black - Umpqua SWCD
- Audrey Squires - National Forest Foundation
- Alexis Larsen - IAE Native Seed Partnership Coordinator
- Zach DiMare- NRCS, Soil Conservationist
- Morgan Fey - Elkton Community Education Center
- Scott Kolpak - Forest Service Geneticist
- Becky Mckray - Glide Wildflower show
- Rod Trotter - Native Plant Society (Umpqua Chapter)
- Tuula Rebhahn - The Understory Initiative
- Kathryn Prive - The Understory Initiative

### Introductions (2:00 - 2:30)

### Umpqua Native Plant Partnership: History & actions so far (2:30 - 2:45)

1. Partnership building - April initial meeting to see if a partnership would be useful and it was decided to move forward. TUI agreed to play the role of a temporary lead with support from the US Fish & Wildlife Partners Program.
2. Review of the partner survey results (see attached) Takeaways are that there is a lack of supply of native plants and seeds. The survey will be modified to survey new members and gather information for a Member Directory to be added to the UNPP website when it gets created.
  - a. All UNPP participants are invited to fill out this new survey. It can be found here: <https://forms.gle/rHH3MHKdH6hqKoWF6>
3. Review of seed collections that occurred in July 2021 (list attached). Lots may be cleaned and are available for a small grow-out.
4. Species prioritization is an ongoing process but a few lists are in development.

5. Meeting with agency partners in Aug 2021 focused on ways of funding partnerships and their experience with similar groups in the past.

### UNPP's Current Priorities (2:45-2:50)

1. Continuing to gather info about barriers to native plant materials development
2. Developing native plant materials & "infrastructure"
3. Developing leadership in the form of a coordinator position for the Umpqua Partnership.

### Plant Materials & Grow-Outs (2:50 - 3:20)

1. RNPP Seed Business Plan overview
  - a. Lessons learned since 2016 as part of the Rogue Native Plant Partnership - Seed and plant production is a complicated and long process (several years from planning to producing seeds/plants).
  - b. We have developed a "business plan" for seed production that breaks the process down into tracks based on the size of production required (large acreage), the type of farmer, and the quantity needed for projects. It is a way to think about seed production on different scales.
  - c. Brief description of several production tracks. For more details you can read the document on the Rogue Native Plant Partnership's website: <https://www.roguenativeplants.org/rnpp-tui-seed-production-business-plan/>
  - d. Native seeds are just one side of the equation and a separate strategy is required to make gains in this area. There are many other resources about seed and container production at RNPP's website in the Resources Library: <https://www.roguenativeplants.org/rnpp-resources-library/>
2. Discussion of strategies for recruiting farmers/ grow-out sites - "shovel-ready projects"
  - a. Becky - Question about using Heritage Seedlings and if they should /could be a good place to source seed. Tuula and Kathryn: The focus of the partnership is somewhat on encouraging a local plant materials economy but sometimes using growers from other areas such as Heritage Seedlings in Corvallis or Benson Seeds in Washington is also a good strategy with the understanding that they are often also operating at capacity and may not be able to meet our needs consistently.
  - b. Clint - What's been done to determine needs in the Umpqua? Demand for seed is very volatile because of knowledge base differences among land managers. After fires in Umpqua in the National Forest there wasn't

anyone who knew how to develop a seeding strategy or seed mix. On the Forest Service end of things there is a lack of needed skills that could create the demand for seeds. The Umpqua forest 7-15 thousand pounds every year would be a good goal. What would a species prioritization process look like in the Umpqua?

- i. Kathryn: This kind of detailed prioritization would be a logical next step for the person in a permanent coordinator position. One option would be to get growers involved during the project planning phase while at the same time operating partly on the assumption that if you build it they will come.
  - c. CalLee - Lots of agreement with what Clint said. The hope is to reduce dependency on buying from non-local growers and seed producers.
  - d. Morgan - We (ECEC) are successful at growing at plugs but would be open to doing seed increase at medium scale. We have done this on a small scale in the past. We also have good success with bare root production.
  - e. Kathryn: In the Rogue we have multiple ways of supporting growers by providing access to equipment, a hybrid model of contracting that pays some upfront and the rest based on plants/seeds produced, and technical assistance for how to grow new species.
3. Discussion of potential seed storage locations or other facilities to support partnership operations
- a. Haley: Dorena has a freezer and a seed cooler for smaller scale collections. We are located in Cottage Grove.

### Funding & leadership going forward (3:20-3:45)

1. Coordinator position discussion - Ideally someone with a restoration background. We developed a draft position description and a rough budget (55k over two years for a part-time coordinator) for use in a future grant application. We are looking for ideas on candidates both in terms of a coordinator and/or an organization that could act as a fiscal sponsor that could apply for funding and hire a coordinator.
  - a. Morgan volunteered and will run the idea past her board of directors. Thank you Morgan!
  - b. CalLee - the idea has always been to find someone local to coordinate the group. Morgan would do a great job and has a lot of backers plus support from TUI & the Rogue Native Plant Partnership. Having a non-profit with the capability to apply for grants would be ideal.

- c. Kathryn - The intention would be to share resources and be collaborators going forward but with the recognition that having someone local would be great.
  - d. Tuula - next step would be to identify funding sources. TUI will start the process on our end.
  - e. Clint - Umpqua National Forest might have the ability to support this but it depends on the infrastructure bill passing. The Forest Service could probably partner with the BLM and the FWS for funding of this position.
- a. Developing an MOU?
    - i. Kathryn: Summary of the Rogue NPP MOU (Memorandum Of Understanding). There is no obligation to spend money but it does outline the common goals and adds transparency. It also helps give the partnership legitimacy and makes getting federal funds somewhat easier.
    - ii. Alexis: We have also found it useful and IAE can provide a good template the Umpqua could use.

## Discussion of Grow-out logistics

1. Rod: Mike Madson and his wife Serena at Wildwood nursery would be a great contact for potential grow-outs. I can also come up with smaller quantities of seed to get production started.
  - a. MA: On my way to Wildwood and can ask about doing larger grow outs for the partnership.
  - b. Donna: Wildwood would be a good idea but they may need support with developing seed plots and preparing a larger grow-out area.
2. Zach: Are there ethics for why we would want to use local seed and local grow-outs?
  - a. Tuula: this is a best practice to ensure that locally adapted genotypes remain in local habitats. Generally speaking having seeds and plants grown out in other areas won't greatly impact genetics as long as the seed was sourced locally.
  - b. Clint: We might want to consider thinking about assisted migration in order to adapt to climate change by potentially moving seed from the Rogue to the Umpqua.
  - c. Scott: Agrees that assisted migration from the Rogue to the Umpqua might be a good idea.
3. Discussion of post-fire/disturbance seed mix:

- a. Kathryn: One idea is to write grant proposals that look to develop a post-disturbance/fire seed mix and strategy that also takes into account climate change and assisted migration of certain species sourced from the Rogue.
  - b. Hayley: With regard to post-disturbance mixes we need to consider how long the mixes last in storage. A best practice is to have a mix of species that will last in storage for a decent amount of time.
  - c. Clint: Unfortunately in the Umpqua, we are probably going to see a 50k acre fire most years and so having a seed mix for that on hand would be ideal.
  - d. Rod: Echoes the problem of seed storage and longevity and the need to lower moisture content below 15%.
  - e. Justy: We probably don't want to be in the business of stockpiling seed but it's a given that we will be burning every year so it is still important to have seed on-hand. Finding a balance is needed.
4. Seed storage
- a. Alison - Building a new multi-agency facility that will have cold storage and we could possibly ask for some increased storage for the Umpqua partnership seed. Is willing to try and figure out how to ask for seed storage.
  - b. Justy - There is probably still time to ask for added seed storage at this facility but the timeline is short.
  - c. Tuula: In the Rogue we use two upright household freezers but quickly needed more storage as the growers have started producing larger volumes of seed

#### Wrap-up and action items (3:45-4:00)

1. Funding strategies - bring ideas to next meeting
2. Clint: Seems like 20k each from FS, FWS and BLM would do the trick and we'll work on getting that put together. Morgan will follow up with how the ECEC feels about taking on this funding and hosting the coordinator position.
3. Next meeting date will be in February. We'll follow up with a specific date soon.

Link to Youtube recording of meeting: <https://youtu.be/geShsIT9fdk>