

May 6, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: FY2026 Funding Request for Bureau of Land Management's Plant Conservation
and Restoration Program**

Dear Chair Murkowski, Ranking Member Merkley, Chair Simpson, and Ranking Member Pingree

Our national lands are without argument one of America's very best ideas. To keep these lands healthy and productive, America must respond to events that threaten these lands and the American way of life that depends on them. To do that effectively, we need native plant seeds.

Land managers need substantial quantities of native plant seeds for large-scale projects following wildfires and other disturbances to restore habitats for deer, elk, and other wildlife and combat weed invasions. Every year, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other land management agencies need millions of pounds of native seed to carry out this vital work. Restoration is an important economic driver at the local, regional and national level. The United States Geological Survey found that every \$1 million invested in restoration generates \$2.2 million to \$3.4 million in total economic output and between 13 and 32 job-years.

Working alone, agencies can generate only a small fraction of the millions of pounds of seeds that they need. To address the urgent seed shortage, BLM's Plant Conservation and

Restoration Program helps coordinate the National Seed Strategy, a multi-year public/private partnership. The partners are seventeen federal agencies and hundreds of non-federal businesses and organizations in the Plant Conservation Alliance. The National Seed Strategy outlines four broad goals aimed at meeting seed needs across the nation. The activities in the strategy promote rural agriculture and restoration of degraded lands and wildlife habitat.

The National Academy of Sciences recently published [a report](#) evaluating the nation's native seed supplies and capacities in which it calls for concerted and immediate action to address the urgent seed supply shortage and warns that insufficient supplies of native seed are a major barrier to ecological restoration and revegetation. The report offers ten specific recommendations, including a recommendation to empower the BLM Plant Conservation and Restoration Program with additional resources, capacity, and authority.

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we respectfully ask that you retain funding for native seed generation, storage, and distribution in BLM appropriations so the agency can continue to effectively implement the National Seed Strategy. We urge Congress, at a minimum, to maintain existing funding for the **BLM Plant Conservation and Restoration Program** including support for contracting with farmers to grow seed, agency botanists to direct the National Seed Strategy implementation, and the national seed warehouses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
Portland, OR

Chicago Botanic Garden
Glencoe, Illinois

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Denver, Colorado

National Wildlife Federation
Reston, Virginia

Institute for Applied Ecology
Corvallis, Oregon

Ecological Health Network
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Natural Areas Association
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Western Watersheds Project
Hailey, Idaho

Defenders of Wildlife
Washington, DC

Animal Welfare Institute
Washington, DC

Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

Atlanta Botanical Gardens
Atlanta, Georgia

Antheia Environmental
Homer, Alaska

AVC, Inc.
Riviera Beach, Florida

Banyan Farm
Williams, Oregon

Ben More Mountain Nursey
Oakland, Oregon

Biology Club – College of Southern Nevada
Las Vegas, Nevada

Briarwood Nature Preserve
Saline, Louisiana

Bucknell University
Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

California Botanic Garden
Claremont, California

California Invasive Plant Council
Richmond, California

California Native Seed Supply Collaborative
Berkeley, California

Californians for Western Wilderness
San Francisco, California

Chez Flora Houseplant Co.
Fort Collins, Colorado

Conservation Biology Research
Missoula, Montana

Creekside Science
Menlo Park, California

Decor Hans LLC
Fort Collins, Colorado

Delaware Audubon
Newark, Delaware

Desert Seed Resource Center
Safford, Arizona

Elkhorn Slough Foundation
Royal Oaks, California

Endangered Species Coalition
Washington, DC

Eyes of the World Mapping
Albuquerque, New Mexico

FFF Associates, Inc.
Stamford, Connecticut

Forests Forever
Berkeley, California

FOUR PAWS USA
Boston, MA

Friends of the Clearwater
Moscow, Idaho

Front Range Ecological Consulting
Denver, Colorado

Gila Watershed Partnership
Safford, Arizona

Society for Ecological Restoration
Great Basin Chapter

Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Durango, Colorado

Heritage Growers
Chico, California

Homer Soil & Water Conservation District
Homer, Alaska

Humble Roots Farm & Nursery LLC
Mosier, Oregon

Institute for Natural Resources at Portland State University
Portland, OR

Iowa Native Plant Society
Ames, Iowa

Iowa Prairie Network
Iowa City, Iowa

Kansas City WildLands
Kansas City, Missouri

Kettle Range Conservation Group
Washington, DC

Lights Out Ames
Ames, Iowa
Lake County Forest Preserve District
Libertyville, Illinois

L.I.G.H.T. Foundation
Elmer City, Washington

Laurel Hill Press
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Lower Rogue Watershed Council
Gold Beach, Oregon

Maryland Ornithological Society
Baltimore, Maryland

Medicinal Plant Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission, Internation Union for
Conservation of Nature

Milwaukee County Parks
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Mississippi Native Plant Society
Mississippi

Native American Seed
Junction, Texas

Native Plant Society of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Native Plant Society of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Native Plant Society of Texas
Fredericksburg, Texas

Natures Niche
Midland, Michigan

Natural Areas Association
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Nighthawk Natives Nursery
Tucson, Arizona

North Carolina Unit of the Herb Society of America
Greensboro, North Carolina

Oregon Biodiversity Information Center

Portland, Oregon

Oregon Natural Desert Association
Bend, Oregon

People and Pollinators Action Network
Boulder, Colorado

Pollinator Partnership
San Francisco, California

Prairie Hills Preserve
Westfield, Iowa

Project Eleven Hundred
Castle Valley, Utah

Rae Selling Berry Seed Bank
Portland, Oregon

Rainier Audubon Society
Auburn, Washington

Roundstone Native Seed
Upton, Kentucky

Salem Audubon Society
Salem, Oregon

San Diego Botanic Garden
Encinitas, California

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
Santa Barbara, California

Siskiyou Land Trust
Mt. Shasta, California

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Salt Lake City, Utah

Society for Conservation Biology North America
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Strategic Habitat Enhancements
Tucson, Arizona

Sylvan Green Earth Consulting
Santa Fe, New Mexico

The International Network for Seed-Based Restoration
Washington, DC

The Understory Initiative
Medford, Oregon

The Watershed Nursery Cooperative
Richmond, California

Three Ravens Ranch
Gerlach, Nevada

Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
Silver City, New Mexico

Valley Eco
Merced, California

Valley Eco
Merced, California

Washington Native Plant Society
Seattle, Washington

Water League
Cave Junction, Oregon

White Mountain Conservation League
Nutrioso, Arizona

Wild Seed Project
Yarmouth, Maine

WildEarth Guardians
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Wolf Gulch Farm
Jacksonville, Oregon