

Partnering for Native Plant Materials Development

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BLM

Plant Conservation Program Lead

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In the words of Lao-tzu:

**Always we hope someone else has the
answer.**

**Some other place will be better,
Some other time it will all turn out.**

This is it.

No one else has the answer.

**No other place will be better,
And it has already turned out.**

Topics

- **Defining The Problem**
- Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA)
- BLM Plant Conservation Program
- Native Plant Materials Development Program
- Seeds of Success (SOS)

Native Plant Materials

Defining The Problem

Issues for plants & plant conservation

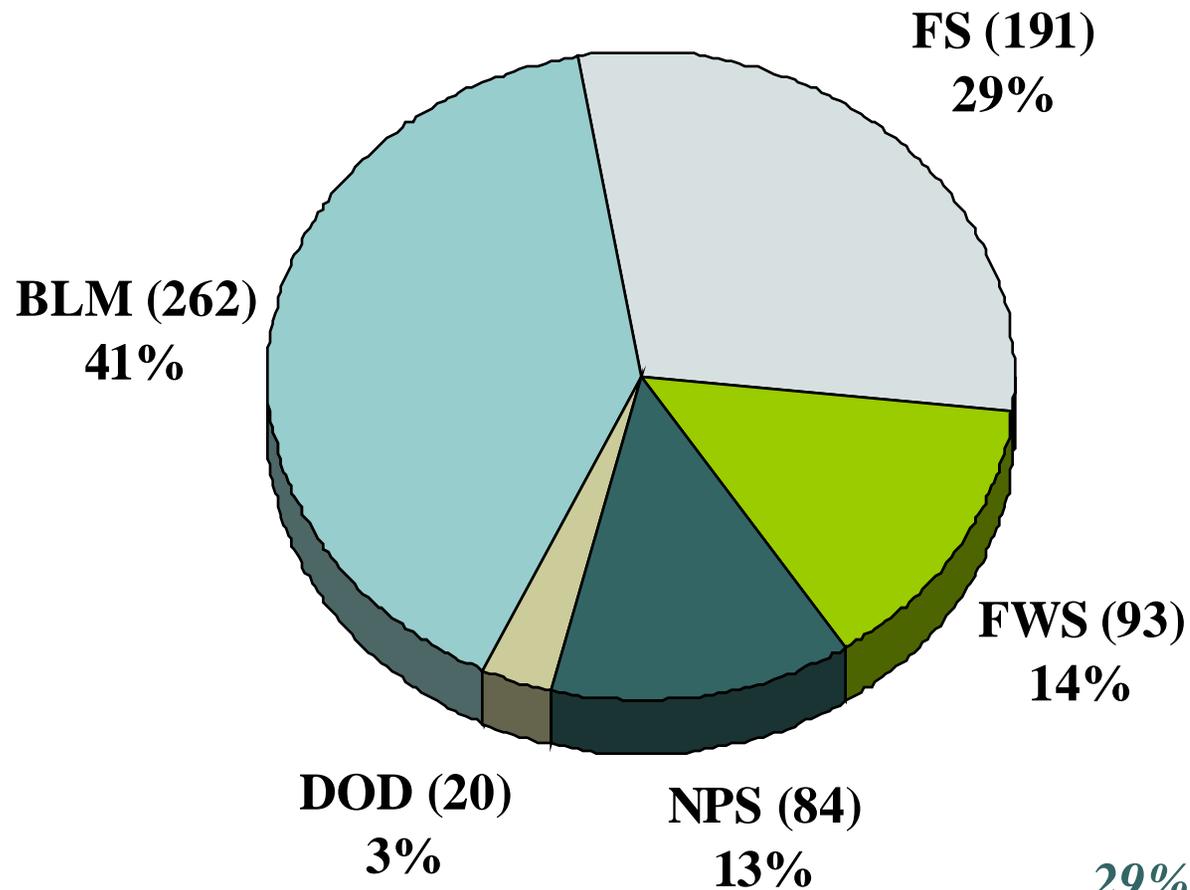
- **Low visibility**
- **Lack of botanical knowledge or understanding of importance of plants**
- **Too few botanists or plant ecologists**
- **Too little funding for plants**
- **Too few botanical advocates**
- **Too little involvement in federal budget process**

Issues for native plant materials

- **“Natives do not work”**
- **“Natives are not available”**
- **“Natives are too expensive”**
- **Lack of knowledge of developing materials (germination & cultivation protocols)**
- **Lack of knowledge of getting materials back into the ecosystems (seed transfer zones)**
- **Too little funding for native plant material development**
- **Too little research**

Federal Agency Landholdings

(in millions of acres)



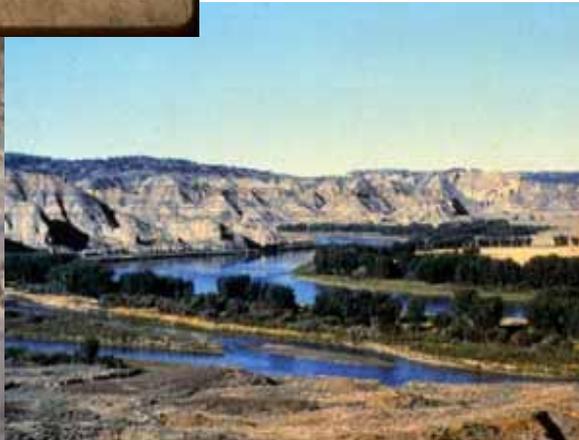
*650 million acres
29% of total US land area*

Federal Agency Spending Per Acre

(2000)

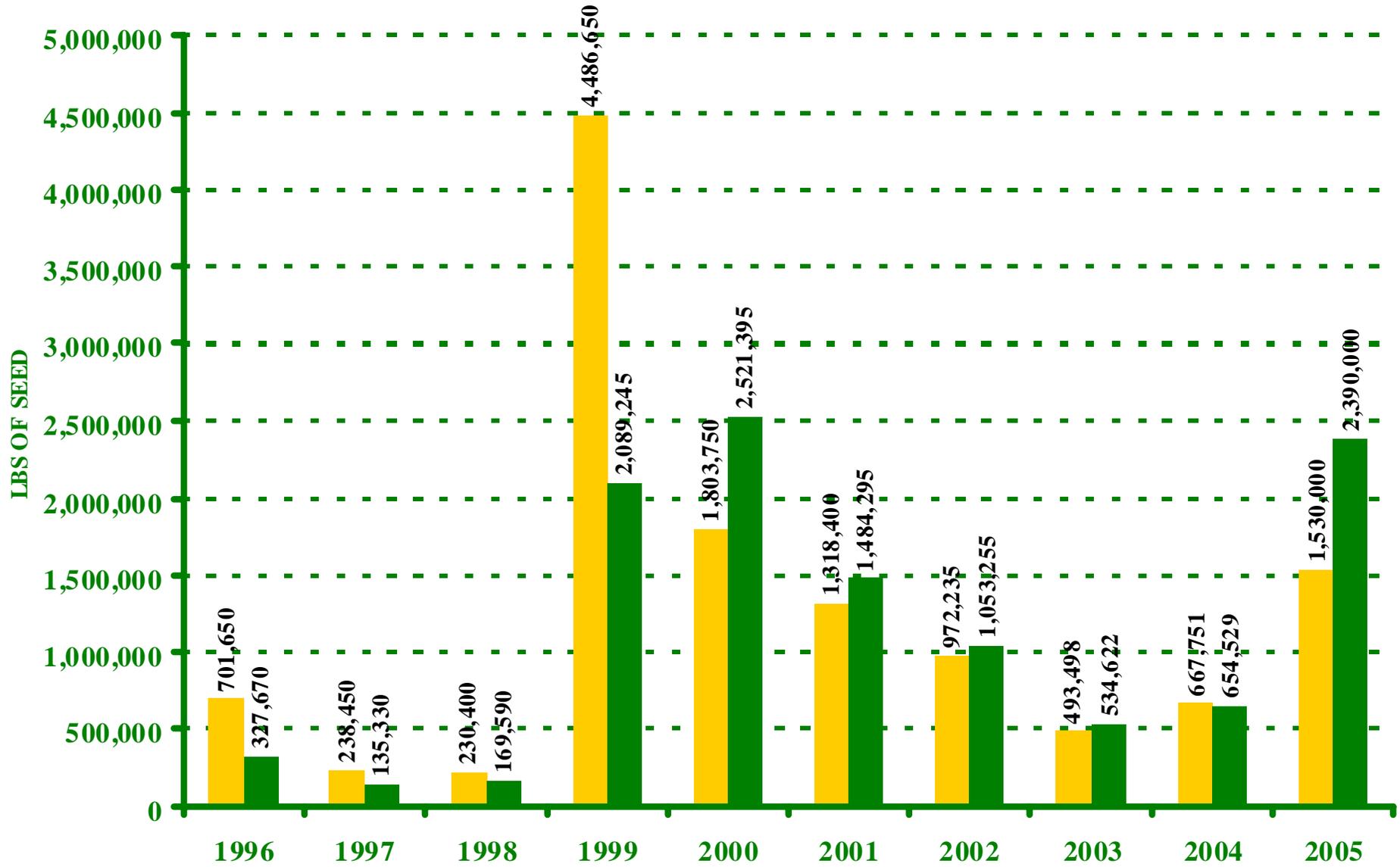
<u>Agency</u>	<u>Funding in Millions</u>	<u>Amount Per Acre</u>
NPS	\$1,365,000	\$16.85
FWS	\$716,000	\$7.70
FS	\$1,270,000	\$6.65
BLM	\$745,000	\$2.82

Benefits to BLM



- Emergency fire rehab
- Fuels reduction
- Wildlife habitat improvement
- Integrated weed management
- Rangeland improvement
- Riparian restoration
- Energy development

BLM CONSOLIDATED SEED BUYS QUANTITY



Topics

- Defining The Problem
- **Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA)**
- BLM Plant Conservation Program
- Native Plant Materials Development Program
- Seeds of Success (SOS)

*A Public/Private Partnership:
Plant Conservation
Alliance*

Creating Solutions



House of Representatives' FY2001 Conference Report

- Directs "...the agencies to develop a long-term program to manage and supply native plant materials for various Federal land management restoration and rehabilitation needs."
- recommends "... the interagency **Plant Conservation Alliance** lead this effort."
- similar direction in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and BLM plans to continue the program.

Public Partnership

Federal Native Plant Conservation Committee

- **Department of Defense**
 - Air Force
 - Army
 - Marines
 - National Guard
 - Navy
- **Department of Agriculture**
 - US Forest Service
 - Agricultural Research Service
 - Natural Resource Conservation Service
- **Department of Interior**
 - Fish & Wildlife Service
 - US Geological Survey
 - National Park Service
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
- **Department of Transportation**
 - Federal Highway Administration
- **Environmental Protection Agency**

Private Partnership

Plant Conservation Alliance

Over 240 Non-federal Cooperating Organizations

- Professional Societies
- Trade Associations
- Research Organizations
- Universities
- State Agencies
- Museums
- Growers
- Non-profit Organizations
- Gardens and Arboreta
- Native Plant Societies
- Garden Clubs
- Native American Tribal Councils

Native Plant Conservation Strategy

(1994)

- Build partnerships to cooperatively share resources and talents
- Create public awareness about the aesthetic, economic, environmental, and cultural values of native plants and plant communities
- Promote ecosystem management
- Encourage scientific research and technological development
- Encourage sustainable uses of native plants
- Share and exchange biological information

Plant Conservation Alliance

Working Groups and Chairs

- **Alien Plant**

Jil Swearingen (NPS)

- **Medicinal Plant**

Patricia De Angelis (FWS)

- **Native Plant Materials**

Peggy Olwell (BLM) & Bob Escherman (NRCS)

- **Restoration**

Greg Eckert (NPS)

- **Public Outreach**

Flo Oxley (Wildflower Center) & Larry Stritch (FS)

- **IUCN North American Plant Specialists Group**

Peggy Olwell (BLM)

Plant Conservation Alliance

Grant Program (1995-2005)

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
(with matching funds)**

225 projects

\$11 million

PCA Internet Resources

- Website

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/>

- Automated E-mail Lists for PCA and its Working Groups

Instructions on website

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- **BLM Plant Conservation Program**
- Native Plant Materials Development Program
- Seeds of Success (SOS)

BLM Plant Conservation Program

...responsible for native plant materials development and rare plant conservation and recovery

...supports restoration of sage-grouse habitat (other T&E species), rehabilitation of burned areas and weed invasion sites and restoration of oil and gas development sites

BLM Plant Conservation Program

Peggy Olwell

Program Lead

Carol Spurrier

Botanist

Scott Lambert

National Seed
Coordinator

Olivia Kwong

PCA Liaison

Mary Byrne

SOS Data Manager

Where is the money for native plants? (within BLM)

- T&E Program (Sub-Activity 1150)
- Wildland Fire (Sub-Activity 2881)
- Challenge Cost Share (Sub-Activity 1770)
(one to one non-federal match necessary)
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
(one to one non-federal match necessary)

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Native Plant Materials Development Program

the primary focus is to increase the diversity and amount of native seed available for stabilization, rehabilitation and restoration efforts on BLM lands



Native Plant Materials Development Program

- Seed increase with commercial growers
- Wildland seed collection
- Research and development
- Public and private partnerships
- Germplasm seed collections



Native Plant Materials Development Program

- Ten year budget strategy (2001)
- Report to Congress (2002)
- GBRI Native Plant Selection & Increase
- OR/WA Native Plant Materials
- Uncompahgre Plateau Project
- Colorado Plateau Restoration Initiative
- Mohave Desert Restoration Initiative

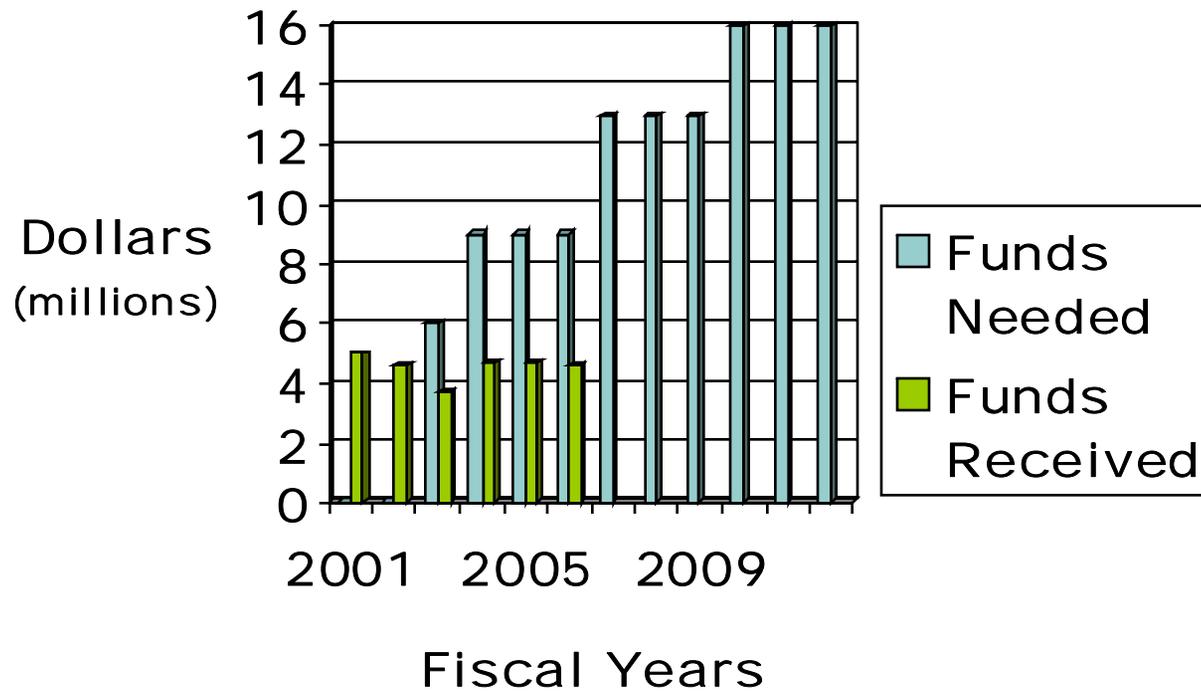
Native Plant Materials Development Program

Funding committed by DOI/BLM

- FY2001 - \$5.0 m
- FY2002 - \$4.6 m
- FY2003 - \$3.7 m
- FY2004 - \$4.7 m
- FY2005 - \$4.7 m
- FY2006 - \$4.6 m

Total **\$27.3 m** **(FS \$6m)**

Ten-Year Budget Strategy Needs versus Funds Received



Report to Congress

- Comprehensive assessment
- Long-term financial & organizational commitment to NPM
- Increase availability of NPM
- Invest in partnerships (Federal, State & local agencies and private sector)
- Ensure scientifically based protocols for monitoring rehab & restoration projects

Native Plant Materials Development Partners

- **PCA**
- **BLM**
- **FS**
- **NPS**
- **ARS**
- **NRCS**
- **Tribes**
- **CPC**
- **KEW (SOS)**
- **NatureServe**
- **TNC**
- **Universities**
- **Private Industry**
- **Trade Associations**

Topics

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- **Seeds of Success (SOS)**

SEEDS



OF SUCCESS

What is *Seeds of Success* ?

- A collection of seeds from North American native plant populations.
- Collected for long term native plant conservation and restoration.
- A partnership coordinated by the PCA with Kew.



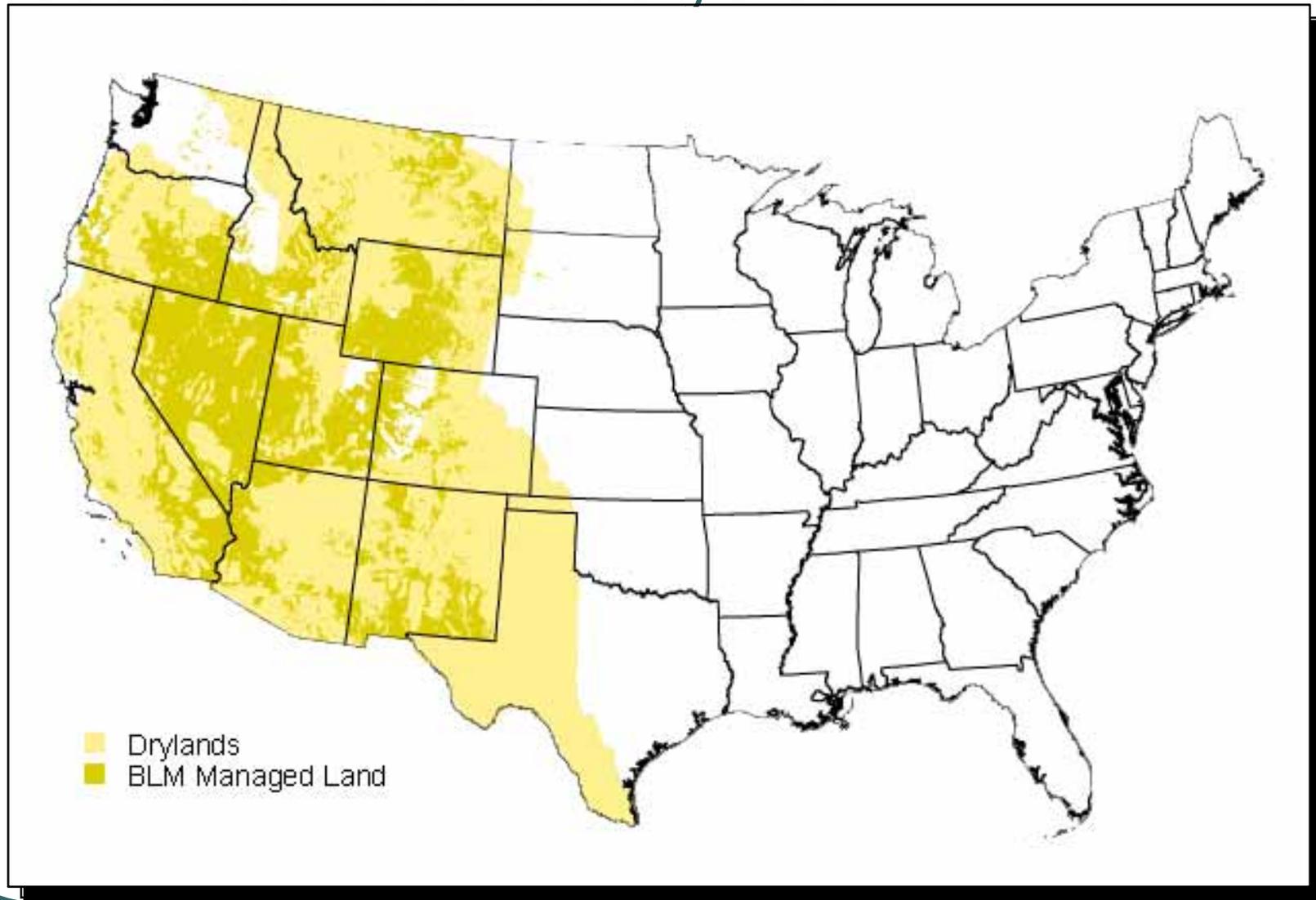
ROYAL
BOTANIC
GARDENS
KEW



Bureau of Land Management

- BLM signed an agreement with Kew in May, 2000 and agreed to develop a collection program in the US in cooperation with the Millennium Seed Bank project.
- BLM entered into the second phase of this partnership by renewing our agreement with Kew in November, 2005.

SOS Initial Focus: the drylands



Bureau of Land Management

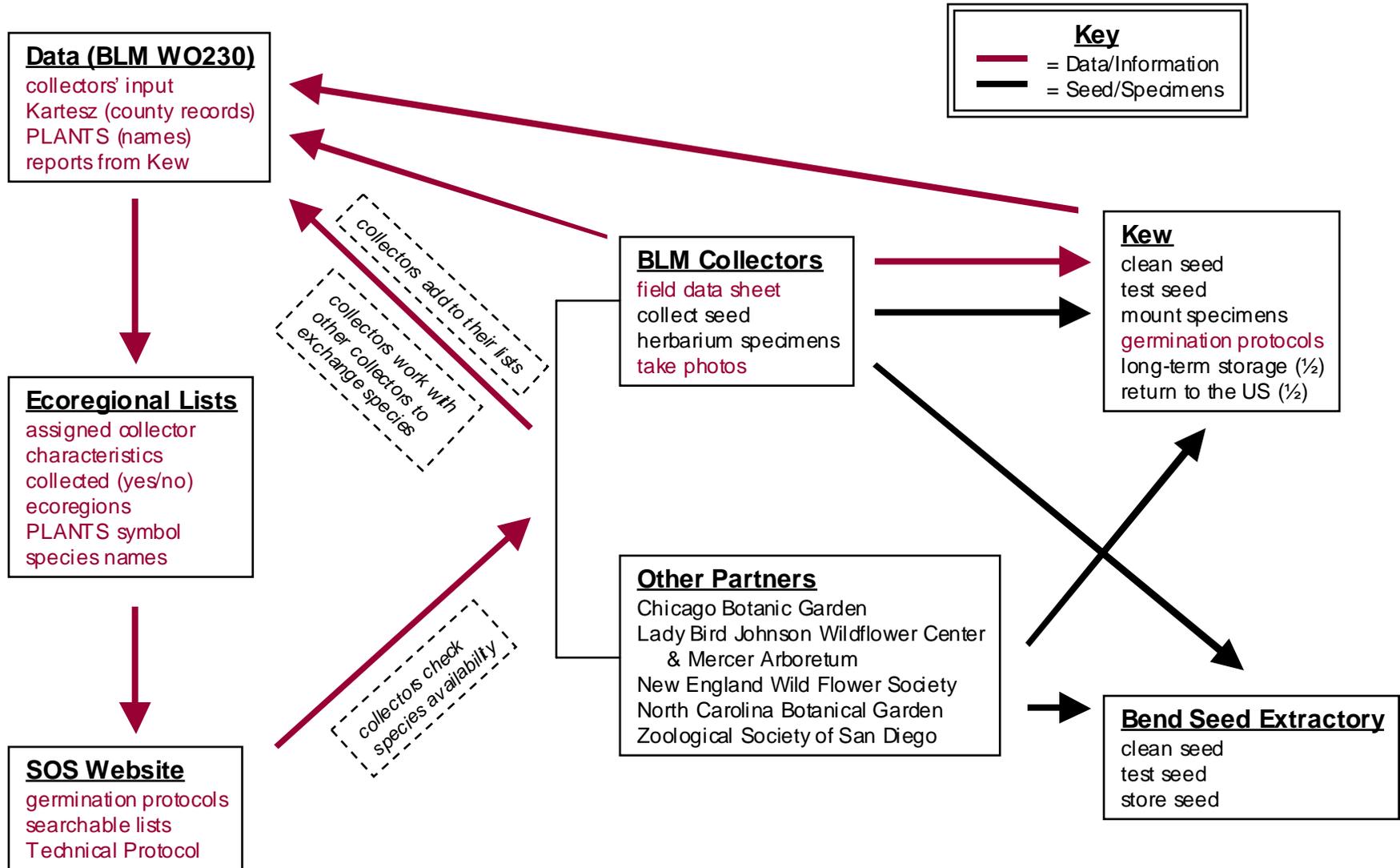
- Chair of PCA Federal Committee (BLM)
- Developed SOS web presence website/list serves on PCA
(www.nps.gov/plants/sos)
- Developed SOS program protocols
- Developed SOS database
- Developed SOS Training sessions
(AZ, OR, CO, NV, WA, CA)
- Established Collection Teams
(BLM, CBG, CPC, SCA)

Other SOS Partners

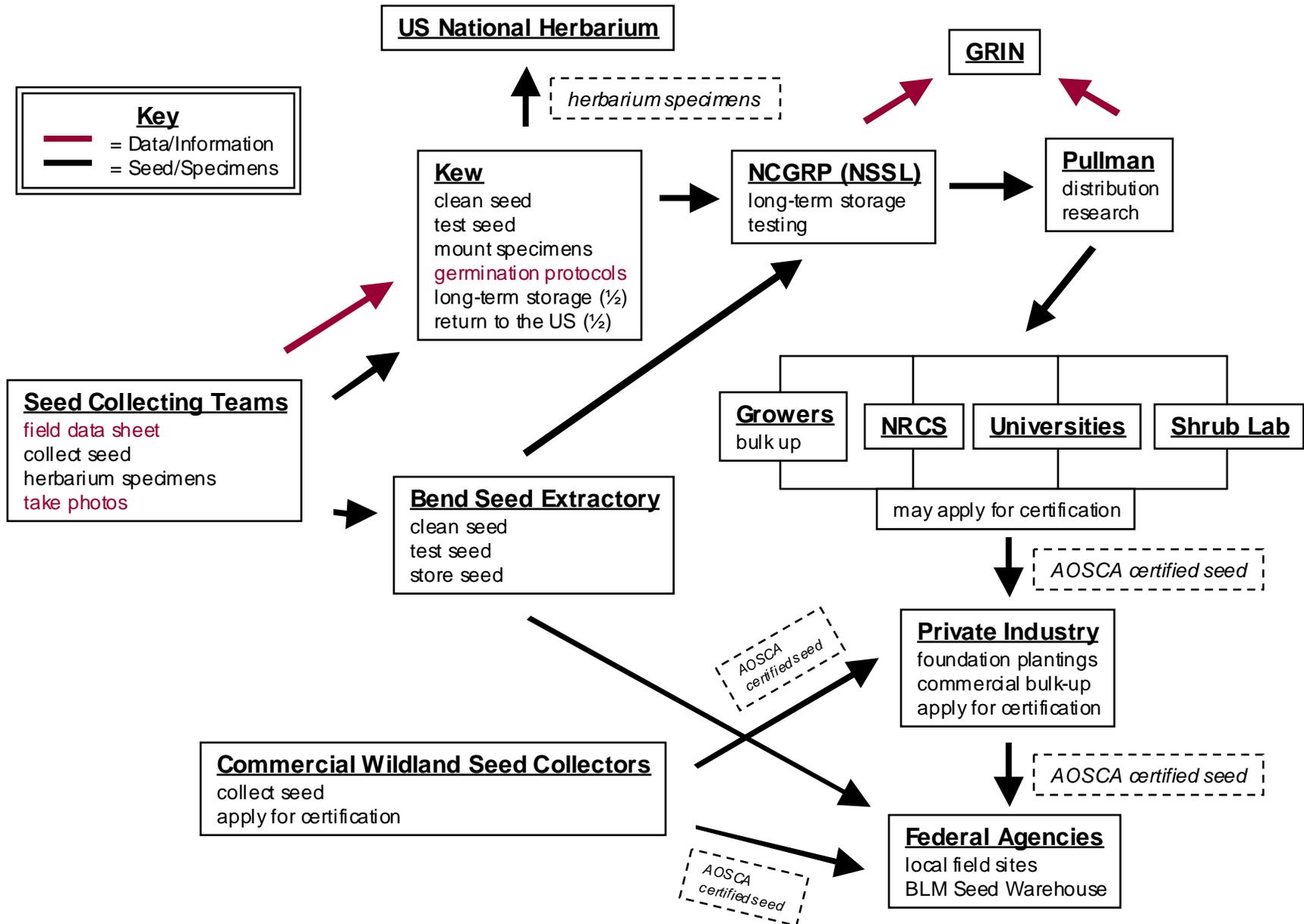
- *Chicago Botanic Garden*
- *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center*
- *North Carolina Botanical Garden*
- *New England Wildflower Society*
- *Zoological Society of San Diego*



Native Plant Materials Development Flow Chart (Part I)



Native Plant Materials Development Flow Chart (Part II)



The power of partnering begins
with each of us...



A close-up photograph of a cluster of purple flowers, likely a species of Salvia. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing prominent stamens. A small, dark insect with a reddish-brown thorax is perched on one of the flowers. The background is a blurred, light-colored surface, possibly sand or soil.

In the words of Lao-tsu:

THIS IS IT!!!