

## **Seed Collection Crew Members & Volunteers** **Late May – Oct 2026; exact dates TBD**

*Support restoration of NPS public lands by collecting native seed and making a difference! You will work parts of the park which the public never gets to see.*



### **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park – North Rim** **Curecanti National Recreation Area**

*Likely to be 1-4 weeks of work, non-concurrently. We follow the SOS, Seeds of Success protocol, though these seeds are collected expressly for in-field production for Colorado western sagebrush national parks to increase native seed inventory. The length of the project will be determined by the availability and timing of seed, number of workers available, as well as dependent upon precipitation west of Gunnison.*

*Scroll down to read depending upon your level of interest – volunteer or crew member.*

**Reply via email to [deniseclairewilson@gmail.com](mailto:deniseclairewilson@gmail.com) or call 303-588-6442.** Your questions are welcome! **If applying for a paid position, send resume and three professional references.**

#### **VOLUNTEERS:**

Generally, you will work for a day or more at your discretion. Volunteers are always welcome and can choose their own work times, if approved. You will need to arrive the night before, so **bring personal camping gear**, clothing, food & water. Campground & park pass are provided. **RSVP is required one week before the scheduled work hitch, TBD. Federal mileage rate of 72.5 cents per mile may be reimbursed upon my express approval for multiple days of work.** Bring

enthusiasm and physical ability to work outdoors all day on uneven terrain. We provide training first thing in the morning; no seed collection experience is necessary. The start time depends upon hot weather. (On high heat days, we may work from 6:30-2:30, otherwise ~8-5pm.) Bring a small backpack with:

- Minimum 1 gal of water/day
- Pack lunch
- Extra clothing layers
- Sunhat & sunscreen
- Closed shoes/hiking boots; NO sandals
- Suggested long sleeves & pants
- Personal items

Provided: gloves, scissors, knee pads, bags, mini-Swiss army knife, retractable cm/inches ruler, LED hand lens, disposable rain ponchos, wag bags

## **CREW MEMBERS:**

Read requirements of volunteers. You will need to **commit** which days that you are willing to work, **by the deadline of 1 week before the scheduled work date.** Pay is \$20-\$27/hr. contract labor depending upon experience. Federal per diem rate for workdays and ½ day rate for travel days. Federal mileage rate reimbursed, if approved.

### **REQUIRED:**

- Love of native plants
- Integrity, reliability, & ability to work outdoors all day
- Hike on uneven terrain
- Ability to work in changing weather & temperatures
- The flexibility to take rain or snow as your days off
- Flexibility with scheduling and location, as plants don't follow schedules!
- Willingness to car or tent camp, or bring a small trailer (campground fee provided)
- Some experience is helpful but not required
- Enthusiasm, commitment, flexibility & love of outdoors outweighs inexperience!
- Safety first!

### **Not Required, but helpful/preferred:**

- Some native seed collection experience

- Familiarity with the most common western CO plant species – the target species below
- Familiarity with iNaturalist
- Good communication habits
- Frequent, usually daily, reporting required while in the field
- Ability to meet targets under changing conditions
- Familiarity of hand-held GPS or GPS phone app to map collection locations and plant details
- Will weigh daily bulk weights and lay out seed to dry on tarps
- Will help rough-clean bulk native seed pre-shipping
- Will help prepare dried seed for FedEx shipment

You will need to make an earlier commitment so that we can hire the number of people needed to fulfill the contract requirements of bulk weight seed needed.



Carlsbad Caverns, Oct 2021

*Artemisia tridentata*, some of big sage collected Oct 2022

## More information:

The focus will be on a list of 10 common species to collect; we aim to collect 4-5. Each species will be collected separately in its own bag (no more than 5% impurity). Phenology, location, campground availability & number of workers will all determine the exact dates of collection. Our objective is to attain the bulk

weight seed needed by the National Park Service for these initial target species for growers' required field increase (target list may change slightly):

<b>Species</b>	<b>Total Bulk Weight Req'd</b>
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> , blue grama grass	10 lbs.
<i>Elymus elymoides</i> , squirreltail grass	10 lbs.
<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i> , western wheatgrass	15 lbs.
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> , yarrow	5 lbs.
<i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i> , arrowleaf balsamroot	35 lbs.
<i>Erigeron speciosus</i> , showy/aspen fleabane	5 lbs.
<i>Heliomeris multiflora</i> , showy goldeneye	9 lbs.
<i>Lupinus caudatus ssp caudatus</i> (or more likely <i>L. argenteus</i> ), silvery lupine	30 lbs.
<i>Machaeranthera canescens</i> , hoary tansyaster	5 lbs.
<i>Packera multilobata</i> , lobeleaf groundsel	5 lbs.
<b>EACH SPECIES MUST MEET MINIMUM REQ'D</b>	
<b>IN TOTAL, WE MUST COLLECT 40 LBS.</b>	

**Collection Protocol:**

- Only collect from large, wild populations.
- Sample evenly and randomly, avoiding selecting seed from just the largest or smallest individuals.
- Sample from at least 50 individuals, document the number of individuals sampled.
- Material collected on multiple dates at the same location in the same season can be combined into one collection. Collectors must ensure no more than 20% of the ripe seed is collected from the population on a single day.
- Perform regular cut tests to assess seed maturity and seed availability.
- Different populations are kept as separate accessions.
- Materials collected from the same population during multiple growing seasons are kept as separate accessions and not combined.