

Appendix S. Genetic Integrity Guidelines for Revegetation, Seed Collection, and Propagation

When removing or narrowing a trail alignment, revegetate the area with seeds and vegetation that are native to the area. Maintaining genetic integrity is critical in every revegetation project. Consult with the appropriate natural resource specialist to determine the best collection and propagation methods for the project. Typically, the seeds and vegetation come from within the same sub-watershed where the project is located. The best place to obtain vegetation is from the new trail route if the trail is being replaced or re-routed. Plants can also be collected from the surrounding area in a dispersed fashion, if it does not adversely affect local plant populations. Another option is to collect seeds and cuttings from the sub-watershed and grow them at a local nursery. Protocols for plant collection and nursery operations with the goal of maintaining genetic integrity must be developed and followed. See the attached North Coast Redwoods District's Genetic Integrity Guidelines for Revegetation, Seed Collection, and Propagation for a sample protocol.

**North Coast Redwoods District
Genetic Integrity Guidelines
For Revegetation, Seed Collection, and Propagation**

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California State Parks and Recreation Commission Statement of Policy
Policy 11.4
Preservation of Vegetative Entities
(Amended 5-4-94)

“In order to maintain the genetic integrity and diversity of native California plants, revegetation or transplant efforts in the state park system will be from local populations, unless shown by scientific analysis that these populations are not genetically distinct from populations being proposed for use. If local populations have been decimated, the closest, most genetically similar population(s) to that state park system unit will be used.”

District Policy

Locality of Collection

In order to maintain the genetic integrity and diversity of native California plants, all transplants and propagation in the North Coast Redwoods District will be from **local populations** (preferably from within the same stand). For the purposes of this policy, “local” is defined as being from the immediate project area (as close as possible, but generally less than one mile). Local populations will be considered decimated, and therefore not available for collection, only if there are not enough plants remaining to accomplish propagation and/or seed collection.

If the plant material or seed **cannot** be collected from **local populations** because plants are not available or accessible or because there is not enough time to collect and propagate the plants then collection can occur within the **same CalWater Planning Watershed Unit, park unit, or seed zone** provided the planting area is within an elevation of +/- 800 feet of the collection site.

Collection Diversity

If available, seeds and propagation collection for large projects should come from a minimum of 10-15 different plants to ensure that sufficient genetic variability is obtained.

Emergencies

In case of emergency (large fire, emergency slope stability project, etc.) the use of commercial stock will be considered provided that the stock meets the location and elevation constraints outlined above.

Shadowbrook Nursery Propagation Request

Requesting Unit or Agency _____

Project Location _____ (Please include topo map & plot plan location)

Is this a funded project? Yes ___ No ___ Source _____

If yes, amount budgeted for nursery stock _____

Common Name	Species	Quantity Requested	Date Requested*

*Please allow two years from collection date to time of actual planting.

This form must be accompanied by an approved Project Evaluation Form or be signed by the Sector Superintendent. Form must be submitted by the first of March for seed collection to occur from summer through fall of the current year. Unless other arrangements are made, all requests received after the first of March will be automatically rolled over to the following year.

Sector Superintendent

Date

Your Name, please print

Your Phone Number