

FARMING FOR RESTORATION



TO LEARN MORE
email Hollis Moore
hollismoore@appliedeco.org



Native Seed Production with the Southwest Seed Partnership

NATIVE SEED IS IN DEMAND

Demand for native seed for restoration is increasing, but few farmers in New Mexico and Arizona are growing this crop.

BENEFITS TO FARMERS:

- Diversify farm income
- Attract pollinators
- Build soil health + reduce erosion
- Fewer water and fertilizer inputs
- Marginal farmland okay

LOCAL SEED

Diverse, locally collected, wild seed can enhance potential adaptability in restored landscapes to improve long-term restoration success.

HOW THE SWSP SUPPORTS FARMERS

- Provide a bridge between buyers and growers of native seed
- Provide starting seed or nursery plugs
- Establish low-risk, multi-year production contracts
- Work to ensure high quality seed through coordination with NM + AZ seed certification
- Assist farmers with grant-writing to expand capacity

The Southwest Seed Partnership (SWSP) is a bridge between land managers who need appropriate seed for restoration and native seed farmers in the southwest. We are working to support the emerging seed industry in NM + AZ by providing research, germplasm/starting seed, and funding to farmers to produce seeds.

2025 PRODUCTION NEEDS:

- **US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE** needs 3 species, between 0.1 - 0.25 acres each for use in Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat in eastern New Mexico

SPECIES INCLUDE: sand bluestem, sand dropseed, and sideoats grama

- **US FOREST SERVICE (NEW MEXICO)** needs 9 species, between 0.1 - 0.3 acres each for use in fire rehabilitation, erosion control, and pollinator support

SPECIES MAY INCLUDE: little bluestem, horsetail milkweed, prairie coneflower and other grasses and forbs