

Stakeholder Feedback Session

What do you think is going well for the Southwest Seed Partnership?

Outreach

- Outreach is going well and Partnership has a good reputation
 - IAE has been knowledgeable and helpful in program planning, setting priorities and getting to next steps
- Partnership is open to getting other people involved, with good collaboration across different entities—industry, researchers, agencies
- Collaboration will be the key to future success

Approach

- The Partnership's approach has been practical, and has demonstrated a good sense of where we are and where we are not
- Impressed with the pace of the Partnership and the successful initiation of production and collection efforts—plowed through many obstacles to produce collections
- Following a good trajectory; good track record
- Dine Native Plant Program has just begun, but the SWSP has helped provide insight into the approach that the new program might take

What would you like to see in the future?

Strategy

- Partners want to see a 5-year strategy come to fruition to help serve as a roadmap for how to keep things moving/meet future priorities
 - ID phases we need to problem solve
 - Develop priorities
 - Acknowledge what will take longer
- Develop a community of practice where Partnership shares lessons learned, like collecting seed from around ecoregions, seed menus, qualified expertise, etc.

Coordination

- Interagency collaboration with roadside natives—would like to see management to prevent agencies from mowing roadside natives
- Coordinate with National Park Service Stakeholders to establish how we integrate the partnership's techniques with the NPS approach

Membership

- Keep group diverse

Public outreach

- Important to get landowners involved in conservation initiatives
- SWSP could spend more energy helping the public take everyday conservation actions

Research

- We need to better understand the soil community, and it would be great if the Partnership could emphasize growing our knowledge about the soil microbiome

Grower relations

- Partnership goals need to be practical and aligned with for-profit seed companies
- Important to solicit feedback from farmers to get a better idea of how to integrate partnership into the commercial seed industry
- Private companies assisting with harvesting and cultivation could be a good way to support new growers who aren't familiar with native species and practices
- It's important to support growers in managing plant materials that they've grown out
 - If you don't have it you can't sell it and if you have it and can't sell it, what do you do with it? Problems for commercial growers.
 - If there is a change in managers, for example, what happens to the plant materials?
- Given the variety of experience that farmers have, those who haven't grown natives before or who have a limited agricultural background will need technical support
- Smaller farmers are hard to recruit