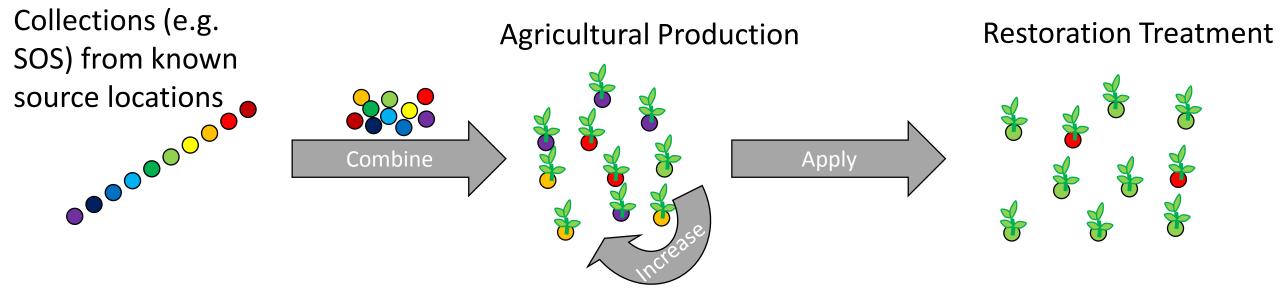
# Genetic and Phenotypic Screening Throughout the Seed Increase Process

Brad Butterfield<sup>1</sup>, Rob Massatti<sup>2</sup> and Liza Holeski<sup>1</sup>

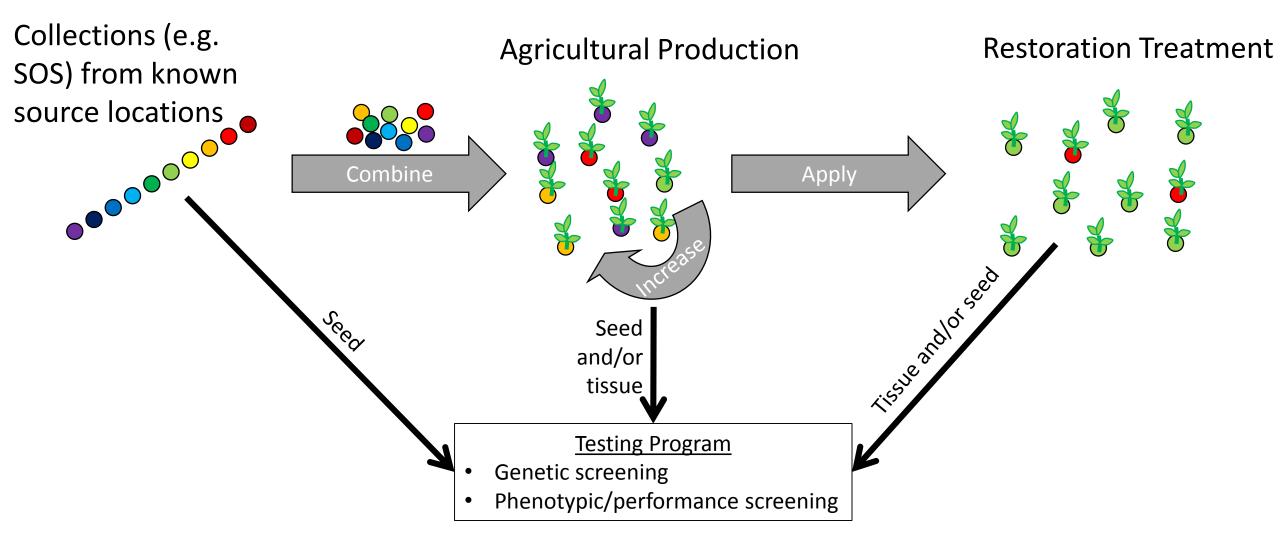
Merriam-Powell Center for Environmental Research
& Department of Biological Sciences
Northern Arizona University

2. USGS Southwest Biological Science Center, Flagstaff AZ

#### Typical Seed Increase Process



## Production, Treatment and Testing in Parallel



# Genetic and Functional Consequences

#### **Journal of Applied Ecology**

Journal of Applied Ecology 2017, 54, 102-115

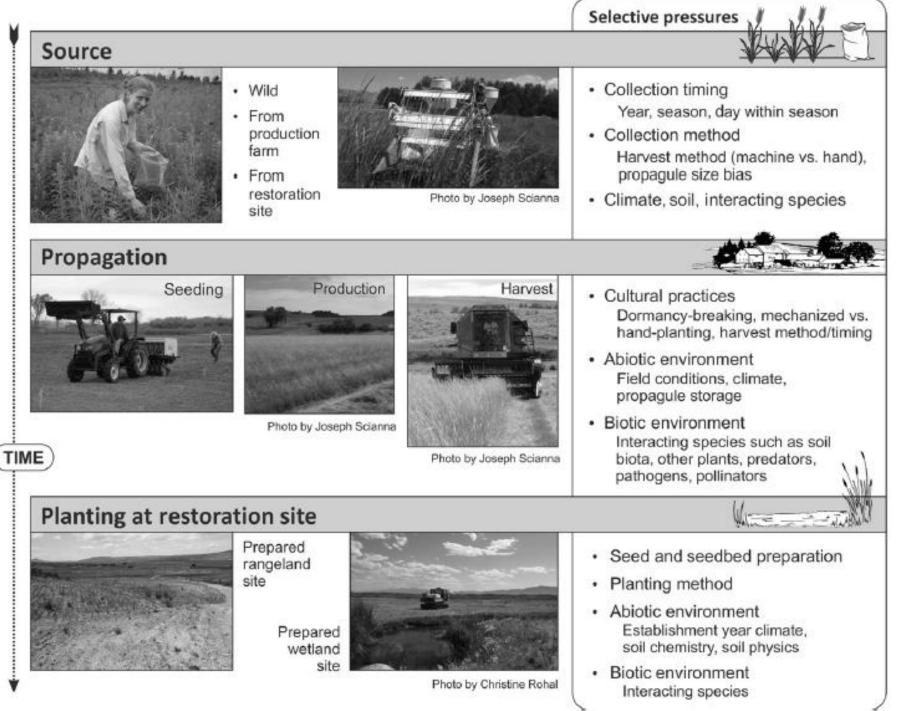
doi: 10.1111/1365-2664.12739

#### REVIEW

# Evolution of plant materials for ecological restoration: insights from the applied and basic literature

Erin K. Espeland<sup>1</sup>\*, Nancy C. Emery<sup>2</sup>, Kristin L. Mercer<sup>3</sup>, Scott A. Woolbright<sup>4</sup>, Karin M. Kettenring<sup>5</sup>, Paul Gepts<sup>6</sup> and Julie R. Etterson<sup>7</sup>





Espelend *et al.* (2017) *JApplEcol* 

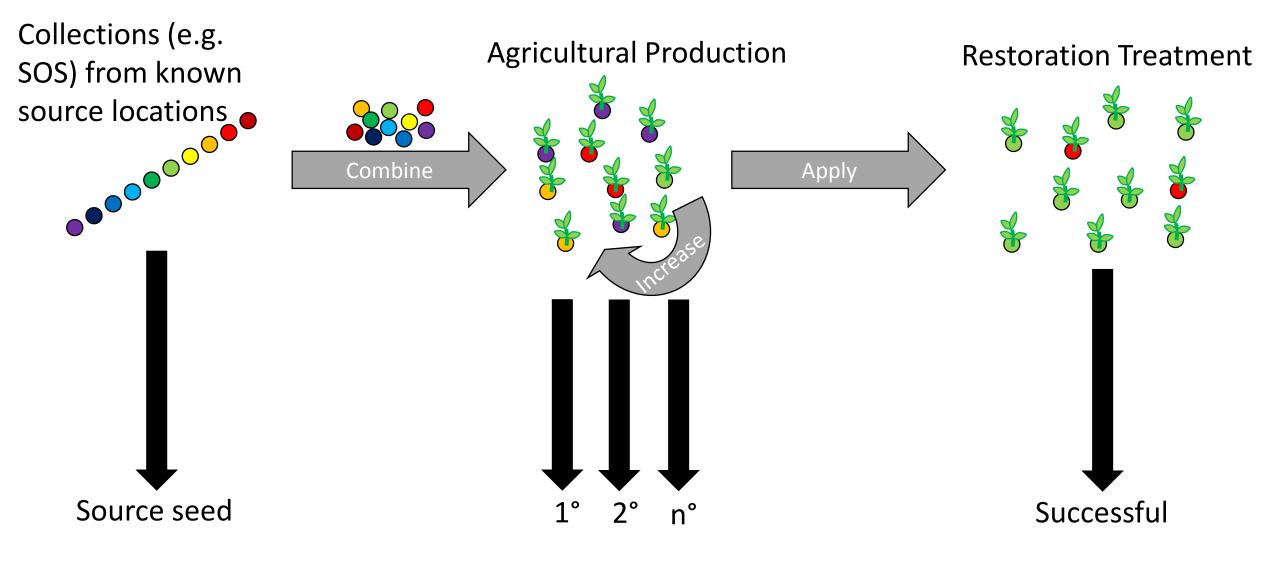
## Not Just Genetic Changes

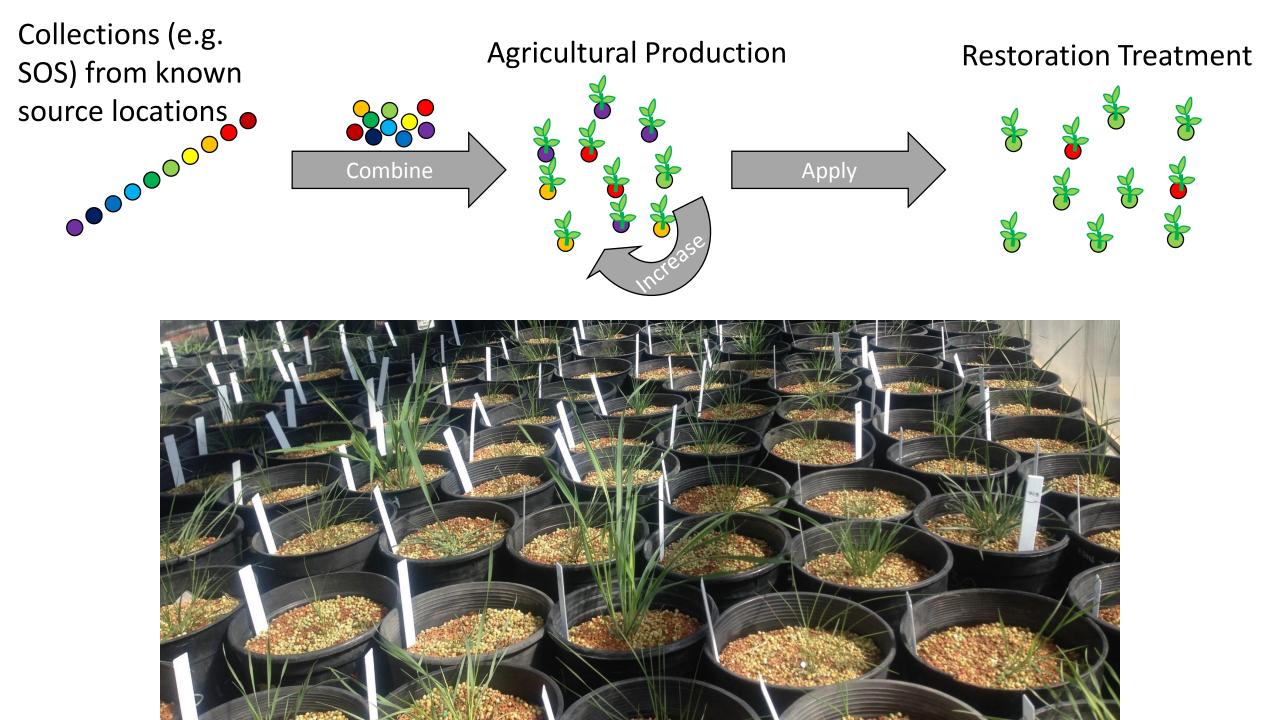
#### • Epigenetics

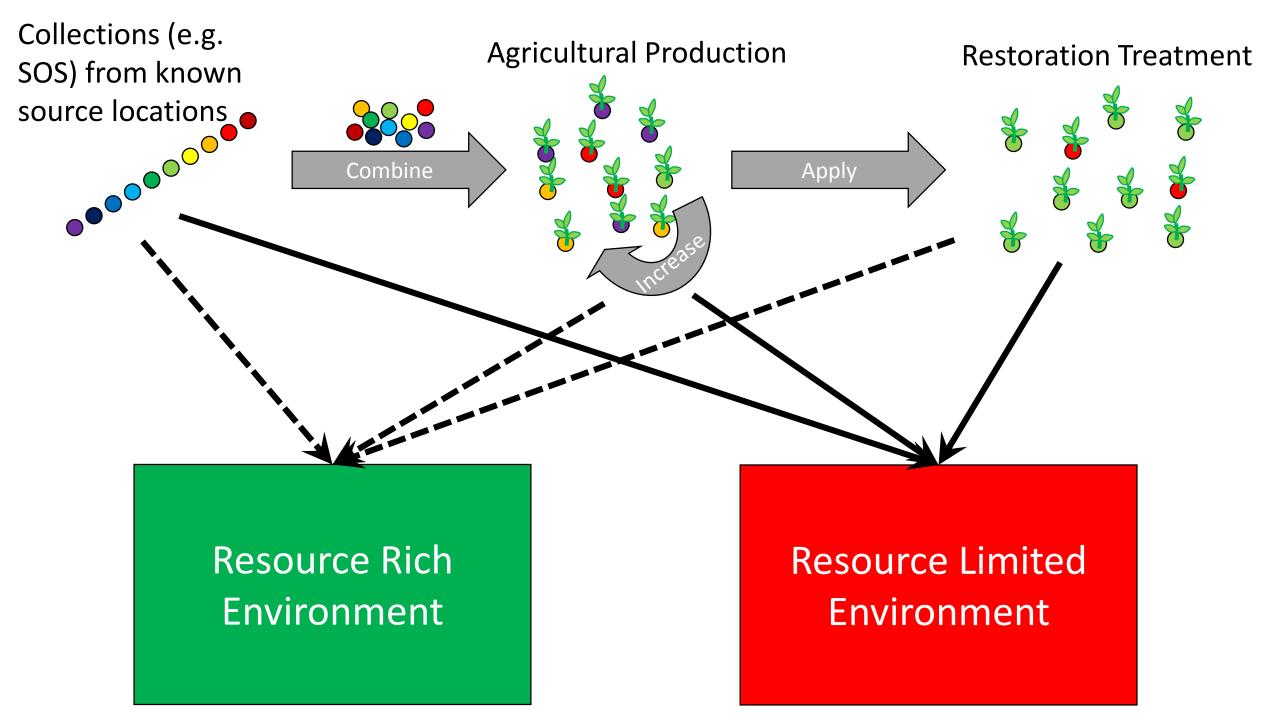
- Altered gene expression
- Can greatly impact initial generation (and possibly future generations) applied in a restoration setting

#### Maternal effects

- Enhanced resource availability to seed
- Can alter dormancy/germination behavior







## Seed Development Guidance

- Too pool or not to pool?
- Bias initial pool
  - Focus on more arid-adapted initial sources?
- Mitigating undesired selection
  - Introduce additional wild sources during increase?
  - More acreage, less output per plant during increase?

# What Would a Testing Program Look Like?

- Centralized, distributed, or a hybrid?
  - Expertise/facilities for genetic and trait screening
  - Incentives for collaboration
- Standardized measurements
  - Minimum set to be informative
  - Longer wish list for targeted species
- Frequent synthesis and feedback through integration with trait database
  - Working group from across NPP
  - Producers, managers, researchers

#### Thanks!

- CPNPP
- Restoration Assessment and Monitoring Program for the Southwest (RAMPS)
- NAU/USGS Dryland Ecology Lab Group



#### COLORADO PLATEAU NATIVE PLANT PROGRAM

