

My name is Frances Kilkenny.

I'm a research biologist with the Rocky Mountain Research Station in the Grassland, Shrubland,

and Desert Ecosystem Program here in Boise, Idaho.

The main project that I'm working on now is what we call the bluebunch wheatgrass reciprocal

transplant study where we test the efficacy of seed transfer guidelines or seed zones so that managers can use the right seed at the right place at the right time.

I'm the co-lead of the project with my colleague, Brad St. Clair who works at the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Corvallis, Oregon.

What excites me about this project is that we're looking at the relationship between plant genetics and plant environment.

And so we can really understand how plants are adapted to their location and their environment

and use this to help managers find the right seed for restoration purposes.

The way I see managers using this information is that in disturbed habitat, for example areas that are burned or that have oil and gas projects that have been done, there's a lot of need for restoration so that we can get a functional ecosystem and plant community in that area.

All of these areas can be in different environments.

And it turns out that plants are adapted to multiple environments.

And so we really want to find the right plants for those environments.

Ultimately, with ecosystem restoration,

we're talking about having a functional plant community, a functional wildlife community,

a diverse community so that all of these things like, you know, clean water, like clean air, like, you know, everything that we need as humans to survive.

And also the beauty that surrounds us can be restored and can actually work in a way that we can live with the environment.

