Species: *Elymus lanceolatus* ssp. *lanceolatus*

Common Name: Thickspike Wheatgrass

Plant Symbol: ELLAL

Accession Number: 9021076

Source: Bannock is a composite of 6 seed collections of thickspike wheatgrass from Pocatello, Idaho; The Dalles, Oregon; and Quincy, Washington that were collected prior to 1948. Specific collection site information is not available.

Native Site Information: Thickspike wheatgrass is native to the western United States and is adapted to areas where annual precipitation averages 8 inches or more.

Method of Selection: The original seed collections were planted in 1948. In the late 1950’s, six individual plants that were more vigorous and productive were selected, increased under isolation and seed bulked. The first generation seed was planted at Teton, Idaho and seed from Teton was planted at Knoll Creek, Nevada. Seed from Knoll Creek was then brought back to the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center for seed increase. Bannock has been compared to other thickspike wheatgrass cultivars at sites throughout the western United States and is taller, leafier and more productive.

Description: Bannock is a long-lived, leafy, cool season perennial grass. It is moderately rhizomatous, with good sod-producing qualities. The stems are erect, 15 to 24 inches tall (up to 40 inches irrigated). The leaves, stems, and seedheads have little or no pubescence. Leaves are abundant with a pale green to bluish cast. Seedheads often turn reddish at maturity. There are no awns.

Anticipated Use: The potential uses of Bannock thickspike wheatgrass are as a component of a seed mix for rangeland, erosion control, forage and cover seedings in 8 to 16 inch rainfall zones; mine spoil reclamation; critical area stabilization where a sod-forming perennial is needed; filter strips
to trap sediment; competition with aggressive
annuals such as cheatgrass and medusahead
because of its ability to establish sod.

**Insect and Disease Problems:** No highly
detrimental disease symptoms or insect
problems have been observed in plantings of
Bannock.

**Environmental Considerations:** This variety
release is from a species native to the
Intermountain West and has no known
negative impacts on wild or domestic animals.
Bannock is not considered a weedy or
invasive species but can spread to adjoining
vegetative communities under ideal
environmental conditions.

**Potential Area of Adaptation:** Bannock is
adapted to the Northwest and Intermountain
regions of the United States where annual
precipitation averages above 8 inches. It may
be adapted to the northern Great Plains.

**Potential Soil Adaptation:** Bannock prefers
moderately deep, loamy to silt loam soils, but
can grow on sandy and clayey soils.

**Planting and Harvesting:** Bannock should
be seeded with a drill to a depth of 1/4 to 1/2
inches on a firm, weed-free seedbed. The full
seeding rate is 8 pounds Pure Live Seed
(PLS) per acre. When used as a component
of a seed mix, adjust to the percent of mix
desired. For seed production, Bannock
should be seeded in 36 inch rows to allow
mechanical weed control and to maintain
rows. Bannock may be seeded during the
spring, late summer, or fall (dormant).

Harvesting seed is best accomplished by
swathing, followed by combining of the cured
windrows. The seed readily shatters,
requiring close scrutiny of maturing stands.
Seed is generally harvested in mid-July to
mid-August. Seed yields range from 100
pounds per acre (dryland) to 400 pounds per
acre (irrigated).

**Seed Maintenance:** Breeder and Foundation
seed is maintained at:

USDA-NRCS, Aberdeen PMC
P.O. Box 296
1691A S. 2700 W.; Aberdeen, ID 83210
Phone: (208) 397-4133

Foundation seed is available through the
Idaho Crop Improvement Association and Soil
Conservation Districts in Idaho, Utah and
Nevada. Certification of seed shall be limited
to not more than two generations from
Foundation seed. Variety protection has
been granted under the Plant Variety
Protection Act of 1970. Conditions of this
license specify that Bannock seed can be
marketed only as a class of certified seed.

Revised October 2001

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits
discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color,
national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, Political beliefs and
marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all
programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative
means for communication of program information (Braille, large
print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET
CENTER at (202) 720-2791.

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, US
Department of
Agriculture, Washington, DC, 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340
(voice) or (202) 720-1127(TDD).
USDA is an equal opportunity employer.