

2022-2023

Seed Collection

Program

8 days in August 2022 | 8 days in September 2023



Why are we collecting?

Elders have told us that it is important to collect seeds for revegetation from local, native plant species. This will help to ensure the plants used for revegetation at Faro are adapted to the local area. It also limits the risk of invasive species.



Cycle of seed collecting

Seeds were collected from herbs, shrubs, trees, dry seedheads, berries, fruits, and seed cones. Different parts of plants were collected by the leaves, flowers, berries, rosehips, pitch, bark and cones from trees and lichen, all placed in paper bags.

Paper bags were labelled with the plant name, location, and date. By the end of the program, they were organized, sorted and packed into coolers for transportation to NATS Nursery. The nursery cleans the seeds and tests for germination and viability. The viable seeds were grown into seedlings (plugs) for planting at the Faro Mine. The other portion of the seeds were stored in a big cooler for future planting programs.



Seed bank at NATS Nursery in Langley, BC on January 20, 2023.



Elders and youth collecting seeds at Ketz River Mine in September 2023. Photos courtesy of Cassia Jakesta



Which species did we collect?

- Field locoweed
- Nodding locoweed
- Gūs (Fireweed)
- Nosda zadi or gah dzídzé' (Bunchberry/beaver berry)
- Łęra/Kuhsāze (Buckbrush)
- Mountain Avens
- K'es (Alder)
- Ts'ū (White Spruce)
- Gādze (Lodgepole Pine)
- Ts'úk'ayhdă (Red-fruit Bearberry)
- Dzídze eslōne (Stoneberry)
- Dzídz est'ēdze (Blackberry/crowberry)
- Dech'ue dzídzé' (Red raspberry)
- Esgoshe (Soapberry)
- Dahbă'/Nénesdzā (Alpine blueberry)
- It'ét (Lowbush cranberry)
- Nón cho' or Tl'otsan (Yarrow)



What elevation were plants collected?

To help with seed survival, seeds were collected from plants growing at the same elevation range (900-1200m) as the Faro Mine site.



Where were the seeds collected?

Plants and seeds were collected around Kaska Territory: Along the South Canol Road, North Canol Road, Ketzá River Mine Road, the Faro Mine Complex, and Blind Creek Road.

Seeds sent to NATS Nursery were cleaned, sorted, and stored on January 20, 2023.

The program was designed with Kaska protocols for collecting plants.



Employment (2022-2023)

- Three Kaska youth and ten Elders in 2022
- Seven Kaska youth and six Elders in 2023

Workplace personnel age range:

- 18 to 85 years old
- 100% Kaska hired (work guided by Ross River youth, Elders and Ross River Lands Department).



Community support and training in partnership with: Integral Ecology Group and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

