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Smoke'm if you got'em: germination and storage techniques on native seed for BC's interior grasslands

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In British Columbia's (BC) grasslands wildfires are a frequent occurrence: in such environments fire tolerant species are commonly encountered. Fire causes an increase of seed germination in many species from fire prone habitats in the other regions with similar-type vegetation such as Western Australia, California and South Africa. Seeds of a number of these species are stimulated to germinate by the smoke generated from burning of plant material in an aqueous form. However, for species from BC's interior grasslands the role of smoke in germination is poorly known. I am examining the germination of XX species native to BC's grasslands that will be treated with an aqueous smoke solution. I will also be setting up seed storage trials. Outcomes of research would have important impacts for conservation, environment management, horticulture, and ecosystem restoration.