

Restoration Planning and Monitoring Using GPS Technology

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Documentation of seeding and re-vegetation monitoring is essential, particularly if learning from successes and failures is a major objective toward achieving more consistent, long-term successful restoration of native habitat. For the past five years, Shell Rocky Mountain Production Company has been proactively trying various methods of restoring native sage-grouse and ungulate habitat on numerous drill locations and pipeline right-of-ways in the Pinedale Anticline natural gas field in western Wyoming. The use of hand-held and vehicle-mounted GPS units greatly facilitates the documentation of information on these re-seeded sites scattered over approximately 200,000 acres. The recent addition of tractor-mounted GPS to document actual drillseeded tracks potentially provides both a simple method of verifying the seeded areas in time and space, and valuable information for evaluating native plant emergence and growth. Some examples of the use of GPS tracking data obtained during seeding, as discussed in the preceding presentation by Glade Jones, will be given in the context of the documentation of ongoing re-vegetation monitoring.