RESTORATION OF A CRESTED WHEATGRASS FIELD

RECLAIMING DEGRADED LANDS FOR SAGE GROUSE

Pam Camp and Jerry Bensen
IN 2001 MONEY WAS AWARDED TO START UP A RESTORATION PROGRAM USING NATIVE PLANTS.

BLM HAS DONE RESTORATION FOR YEARS BUT WITH DIFFERENT OBJECTIVES

WHAT’S NEW IS USE OF NATIVE GENOTYPES, OF GRASSES, WILDFLOWERS AND SHRUBS FOR WILDLIFE

ESPECIALLY SAGE GROUSE
TODAY’S TALK

- PLANNING
- FIELD PREPARATION
- PLANTING
- DUFFY CREEK FIRST YEAR RESULTS
- RE-INTRODUCING WILDFLOWERS
  - Julie Sanderson
MOSES COULEE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

NORTHERN DOUGLAS CO.,
ONE OF THE TWO REMAINING SAGE GROUSE AREAS IN THE STATE

ONE OF THE REMAINING CONTIGUOUS NATIVE HABITATS

JOINT MANAGEMENT AREAS OF BLM AND TNC

ACREAGE 50,000 BLM
35,000 TNC
MOSES COULEE AREA

SAGE GROUSE HABITAT

ON THE TOPS OF THE RIDGES

SAGE GROUSE STANDARDS-
10-30% SAGEBRUSH
BUNCH GRASSES 7-INCHES HIGH
MIXTURE OF WILDFLOWERS SEEDS
SITE SELECTION

- AREA IMPORTANT TO SAGE GROUSE

- FLATISH AND ROCK FREE

- NO GRAZING LEASE FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS
SITE SPECIFICS

- 100 ACRES AT DUFFY CREEK CRP, IN THE 1980’S FLAT, EASY ACCESS
- 2 PIECES, SOME FENCING
- ADJACENT TO NATIVE AREA
- WEED FREE*
- IRREGULAR SHAPE*
- MORE RAIN, COOLER SPRING
- FREE FROM GRAZING
PLANNING

1. WHAT GRASS, SHRUB AND WILDFLOWERS WERE THERE?

ADJACENT AREAS
SPECIES LISTS

100-200 SPECIES IN THIS ENVIRONMENT

DAUGBENMIRE’S SAGEBRUSH STEPPE FOR ABUNDANCE

SAGE GROUSE FORBS
PLANNING-
STARTING A SEED SUPPLY

2. ARE THERE SOURCES FOR THESE SPECIES IN QUANTITIES

NO
Too expensive
Natives don’t work well
Aren’t as viable

STARTED SEED COLLECTION IN 2002

4 GRASS SPECIES 25 LB PER SPECIES

EASIER TO MISS THE WINDOW FOR EACH SPECIES

FINDING SITE NOT CONTAMINATED WITH UNDESIRABLES

PLANNING AT LEAST 2-3 YEARS OUT
FROM WILD COLLECTING TO GROWOUT

FIELDS OF BLUEBUNCH WHEATGRASS, IDAHO FESCUE, SANDBERG BLUEGRASS, CUSICK’S BLUEGRASS

Scott Lambert, Linda Hardessey, Pam Camp, Jerry Benson, Joan Seevers
THE TWO YEAR PLAN FOR CRESTED WHEATGRASS REMOVAL

- REDUCE BIOMASS
- EVEN UP THE GROUND
- PREPARATION OF THE SEED BED
- ACCUMULATION OF MOISTURE
- PLANTING
PREPARATION - YEAR 1

OBJECTIVES
GETTING RID OF CRESTED WHEATGRASS
REDUCE BIOMASS
EVEN UP THE GROUND
MOISTURE ACCUMULATION

METHODS
Mowing
Harrowing
Winter fallow

SITE
IRREGULAR SHAPE*
MORE RAIN, COOLER SPRING

NEED SMALLER EQUIPMENT!

COOPERATION WITH STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE
THE TWO YEAR PLAN
YEAR 1- GETTING RID OF BIOMASS

MOWING

PRE-TREATMENT

POST MOWING
HARROWING AND SUMMER FALLOW
YEAR 2

WEED CONTROL, MORE BIOMASS CONTROL
SUMMER FALLOW AND PLANTING

CHEISEL PLOW
CUT ROOTS,
BURY SEEDS

WEED CONTROL
1.5 QT/AC ROUND-UP

HARROWING
PLANTING

SEED STORAGE ON SITE

PLANTING RATE
10 lb/acre
35 AC/DAY
SEED MIX

- 60% Bluebunch Wheatgrass
- 18% Idaho Fescue
- 1% Cusick’s blue grass
- 8% Sandberg bluegrass
- 13% Rice hulls

THE SEED

Too expensive
Natives don’t work well
Aren’t as viable

SEED QUALITY

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<td>SANDBERG</td>
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FIRST YEAR RESULTS, 2005

SUCCESS!
WEED FREE*

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2 MONTHS LATER- THE WEEDS APPEAR
NESTED FREQUENCY
DENSITY SEEDLING/FT SQ.

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NRCS STANDARDS 1/SQ. FT
SUMMARY - IT JUST TAKES TIME

AN OLD AG. FIELD 20 YEARS LATER (Foster Creek)

(TO BE CONTINUED)