

JACKSON REGION

HABITAT PROJECTS

Gros Ventre Allotment Forage Reserve and Closure

On January 18, 2007 the BTNF made a decision after a voluntary agreement between the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and the grazing permittee to close approximately half of a 178,000 acre cattle grazing allotment complex and place the remaining half in a forage reserve. This action provides a balanced approach for conserving historically important big game winter range and minimizing conflicts between livestock and large carnivores. This portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, located within the Gros Ventre drainage approximately 20 miles northeast of Jackson is renowned for its exemplary wildlife values. WGFD personnel provided the BTNF with wildlife values and wildlife-livestock conflicts information.

Highlights of wildlife values include:

- Extensive winter range for elk, moose and bighorn sheep.
- An important segment of a world renowned pronghorn migration route - the longest wild ungulate migration route in the lower 48 states.
- Critical habitat for numerous threatened, endangered and sensitive wildlife species including grizzly bears, gray wolves, Canada lynx, wolverine, trumpeter swans and bald eagles to name a few.

The NWF made the above closure/forage reserve option possible by offering the grazing permittee an economic incentive to waive his grazing permit back to the BTNF without a preference for another livestock producer. A fair market value was agreed upon by the NWF and grazing permittee.

The BTNF requested WGFD recommendations on the configuration of the forage reserve and closure portions of the allotment adjustment. Approximately half of the allotment will be closed. The remaining half will be managed as a forage reserve with two emphasis areas. The larger emphasis area (approximately 60,000 acres), will be a "Winter Range Forage Reserve". (Figure 1). This area will be managed as critical wildlife winter range and for the benefit of large carnivores. Infrequent livestock grazing may be utilized along with other management tools to improve forage for wintering wildlife. Grazing must demonstrably

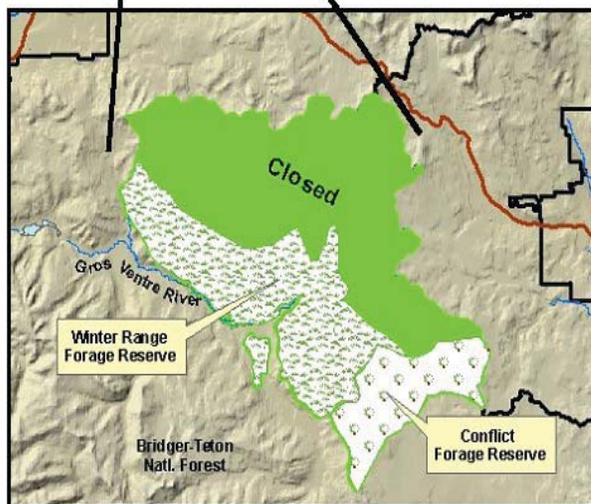


Figure 1. Gros Ventre allotment adjustments illustrating 1) winter range forage reserve, 2) conflict forage reserve and 3) closure.

- Began developing a master plan for Salt River project prioritization.
- Three rock barb structures were installed and vegetations plantings done to stabilize 1,000 feet of Salt River banks.
- Six hundred trees and 1,300 feet of sod plantings were used to stabilize Jackknife Creek.
- A two-mile enhancement project was developed on Spring Creek south of Jackson.
- A twelve hundred foot enhancement project plan was developed for Fish Creek near Wilson.
- Approximately 100 acres of the Weiner Creek basin were burned.
- Fifteen stream miles in the Teton River watershed were inventoried.

benefit wildlife winter range and measurable monitoring criteria will be developed with public input through the NEPA process. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is expected to commence by January, 2009. Conflicts between livestock and large carnivores will not be resolved by removal of predators.

The second emphasis area (approximately 24,000 acres) lying outside the crucial winter range will be managed as a "Conflict Forage Reserve". Management emphasis will be on reducing conflicts between livestock and predators. This area could be used on an infrequent basis for livestock grazing if conflicts with bear or wolves are occurring on an adjacent allotment or if a forest fire or wildlife habitat improvement project has significantly reduced forage on an adjacent allotment. Such opportunities will be more clearly defined in the NEPA process. Conservation of large carnivores will remain the primary consideration and conflicts with livestock will not be resolved by removal of large carnivores.

Salt River Geomorphic Stability Study: Phase One Master Plan

The Star Valley Conservation District (SVCD), NRCS, and WGFD are developing a plan for the Salt River. A team was formed to examine issues such as diversions, encroachments, water quality threats, urban and suburban sprawl, and land development. During February and March 2007, evening meetings with landowners, state and federal agencies, interested conservation groups, and other users were held to identify concerns. It was agreed that a coordinated effort would be more effective than many small and uncoordinated projects.

The overriding concern is the feasibility of stabilizing a river with the geomorphology, natural meander pattern, and agricultural history of the Salt River. To be successful, work must start at the most upstream stable point on the river and all downstream stakeholders work in concert. Therefore, a master plan came under development. This project-planning package shall address project objectives, weighted objectives, ability to meet objectives, operation and maintenance issues, and economics. Currently the team is developing a request for proposals to be submitted to river restoration consultants, to complete a geomorphic stability study of the Salt River from the Fairview irrigation diversion near the town of Smoot to the Alpine Wetland near Alpine, Wyoming.

This study will include the river and its tributaries and shall identify problem areas, which (1) contribute excessive erosion or sedimentation to the river; (2) contribute deleterious substances such as coliform bacteria, agricultural or industrial substances; or (3) are areas of potential channel improvement opportunities related to enhanced fisheries and riparian areas. Prioritization of channel improvements shall consider fish and wildlife habitat as well as water quality 303(D) status. The objectives are: (1) stabilize the river channel; (2) improve flood conveyance and irrigation efficiency; (3) improve water quality; (4) improve understanding of land development effects on the watershed (5) improve riparian habitat; and, (6) improve fish and wildlife habitat. The final product of this study is a conceptual master plan and prioritization of project improvements on both private and public lands.

Salt River/Upper Clark's Barn Project

The Upper Clark's Barn reach of the Salt River, southwest of Afton, is experiencing degradation of river and stream structure. In the past, the majority of water flowed into a west channel. Now, the bulk of the flow is in an eastern channel, putting pressure on the banks between the two channels. Without intervention, the river would have abandoned the diverse trout habitat of the west channel. Increased flow in the eastern channel would have damaged private property, a county road, and a bridge. Significant habitat both upstream and downstream would have been destroyed if the river changed course.

In order to prevent this damage, rock was used to stabilize the banks between the two channels and rock barbs were placed in the river (Figure 2). The barbs moved the thalweg away from the bank and reduced bank erosion by reducing near-bank slope, velocity, velocity gradient, stream power, and shear stress. The barbs were anchored with rock sills that kept the river from eroding around the bank side of the barb. In spring 2007, sedge matting and willow plantings were used to add stability to the structures. The landowner is responsible for maintaining the structures and vegetation.



Figure 2. Placing barb structure on west side channel. The bank was stabilized in spring 2007 with sod matting and willows.

Buffalo Valley Elk Parturition and Winter/Transitional Habitat Selection

Assistance was provided for a research study being conducted by Andrea Barbknecht from Iowa State University. This is a collaborative effort stemming from management needs identified by the WGFD, BTNF, National Elk Refuge (NEF) and Grand Teton National Park (GTNP). The project area is within important elk transitional, winter and parturition ranges in the Buffalo Valley area, approximately 30 miles north of Jackson.

An average of 30% (3,400 elk) of the Jackson Elk Herd Unit (JEHU) do not utilize supplemental winter feed on the NEF or three neighboring state operated elk feedgrounds. This is one of the highest percentages of “winter free-ranging” elk among all herd units within the feedground complex of northwest Wyoming. Certain segments of the JEHU appear to have established fidelity to native winter ranges versus supplemental feeding sites. One such herd segment is located in the Buffalo Valley area, east of Moran Junction.

Changes in harvest strategies and implementation of habitat enhancement projects (prescribed burns) may have encouraged native forage utilization by elk in the Buffalo Valley area over the past 5 years (i.e mean = 924 elk, range 729-1,187). In addition, the brucellosis seroprevalence of the winter free-ranging segment has tested much lower (1.9%, n = 55) than segments utilizing feedgrounds (25% for all feedgrounds, n=1437). While the number of winter free-ranging elk within the Buffalo Valley has been relatively constant in recent years, the fidelity of individuals to this native winter range over time is unknown. Moreover, quantification of ecological variables such as elk response to habitat enhancements, habitat-disease relationships, habitat selection, home range size, migration routes, seasonal use patterns, and response are lacking. This additional information is essential in selecting appropriate alternatives for the future management of wintering elk and associated disease transmission risks.

Specific project objectives include:

1. Increase brucellosis surveillance of the winter free-ranging segment of JEHU within the Buffalo Valley.
2. Compare seroprevalence of winter free-ranging elk in this herd segment to other herd segments utilizing supplemental feed sites.
3. Determine elk distribution, seasonal use patterns, forage and habitat selection, and site fidelity of the herd segment wintering in the Buffalo Valley area and document winter conditions that trigger elk from this herd segment to utilize feedgrounds.
4. Identify elk response to prescribed burns implemented on winter/transitional ranges.
5. Evaluate elk response to snow water equivalents (SWE) on winter/transitional ranges.
6. Determine food habits of this winter free-ranging herd segment.

7. Obtain additional information on the potential for commingling of winter free-ranging elk and cattle/horse feeding operations in the Buffalo Valley area.

To address these objectives, a total of 76 female elk have been captured via net gunning (Figure 3) during the winters 2005-2006 and 2006-2007. Of the 76 cows captured, 53 were determined to be pregnant and outfitted with vaginal implant transmitters to define abortion and parturition sites. Individuals were also fitted with GPS/VHF radio collars to assess habitat selection as well as movement/migration patterns.

The graduate student will complete her M.S. thesis in early 2008. General conclusions to date are:

- Habitat improvements appear to affect brucellosis seroprevalence. Seroprevalence over the two years of study was 12.5% for free-ranging elk, 15.7% for feedgrounds with surrounding habitat improvements, and 30% for feedgrounds without habitat improvements.
- Elk are selective for certain habitat characteristics during calving.
- Elk on feedgrounds calve much closer to the core winter range than free-ranging wintering elk which have very dispersed calving.
- Longer feeding durations result in less dispersed and more aggregated calving sites.
- Previously delineated WGFD calving areas do not accurately delineate the extensive calving areas identified via this study.
- Pregnancy rates were generally low and varied between years (i.e. 74% in 2006 and 66% in 2007). Decreased pregnancy rates in wild ungulates is often due to habitat/climate conditions.

The second phase of the study has been initiated with the following objectives:

- Determine winter habitat selection of elk with respect to improved habitat, native habitat, and supplemental feed.
- Identify migration routes, winter/summer range and potential contact with domestic livestock.
- Examine habitat and snow characteristics at the transect locations for comparison of habitat quality between improved and unimproved native habitat.

Jackknife Creek Restoration Project

Jackknife Creek, a Salt River tributary, is an important native Snake River cutthroat trout (SRC) spawning tributary. Small wild SRC numbers are highest in the Etna section of the Salt River, largely due to recruitment from Jackknife Creek. This stream has suffered from agricultural practices that have straightened the creek, overgrazed riparian areas, and removed woody riparian vegetation. In response, Jackknife Creek is actively eroding and adding sediment to the Salt River. Without intervention, both Jackknife Creek and the Salt River may change course, initiate alteration, and possible damage upstream and downstream.



Figure 3. Helicopter capture of elk in the Buffalo Valley. Net guns and ground crews are used to quickly and humanely capture and process elk. Photo: Mark Gocke

In 2005, the Jackknife Creek/Salt River Confluence Restoration Project was planned with the following objectives:

- Restore channel geomorphology to a narrow, deep, and sinuous stream.
- Maintain meander pattern to preserve river and stream structure.
- Maintain spawning and migration habitat for trout.
- Reduce sediment contribution of eroding banks.
- Enhance aquatic habitats to maximum ecological potential.
- Enhance riparian habitats to maximum ecological potential.
- Provide sufficient habitat and habitat diversity to increase SRC populations .
- Enhance angling opportunity at public access areas.

Grazing management, channel design, and revegetation of stream banks are the tools employed in this project.

Stillwater Ranches, owners of the Jackknife Creek Ranch, started this restoration project in 2006 by reactivating a Jackknife Creek meander. In this project, the upper reach of the historically straightened channel was realigned to a natural meandering channel and heavily planted with willows. The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission awarded the project with \$25,000 to be used for project construction. In 2007, funding was used to purchase native vegetation and contract the labor to plant riparian vegetation on 1,300 feet of reestablished meander (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Jackknife Creek rebuilt channel with sod matting and willow placement.

Resource selection and population dynamics of Shira's moose (*Alces alces shirasi*) in northwest Wyoming.

Assistance was provided for a research study being conducted by Scott Becker, Master of Science Candidate, U.S. Geological Survey, Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Zoology and Physiology, University of Wyoming. This is a collaborative study stemming from management needs identified by the Moose Working Group of the WGFD, BTNF, GTNP and the University of Wyoming. The project area includes the entire Jackson Moose Herd Unit located north of Jackson.

Declining population trend counts and calf:cow ratios since the late 1980s suggest a downward trend in moose numbers in northwest Wyoming. To address the potential mechanisms limiting the north Jackson moose herd, the project will assess physiological health, survival, reproductive rates, and resource selection.

The current phase of the study began in January 2005 with the deployment of 48 collars (28 VHF & 20 GPS) (Figure 5). During January-March, 2006 an additional 24 collars were deployed, 8 of which were recaptures. Another 20 collars were deployed during February, 2007, five of which were recaptures.



Figure 5. Moose being fitted with a radio collar for the Buffalo Valley research project. Photo: Mark Gocke.

The primary goals of the project are: 1) investigate resource selection, seasonal distribution, and movement patterns of adult female moose in the Buffalo Valley to better understand the relationships between moose and their habitat requirements; 2) assess potential causes for recent population declines by estimating population parameters and measuring physiological health indices; and 3) estimate the timing and location of adult female moose movements associated with U.S. Highway 26/287 and use this information to build a model that will be used to predict important moose crossing locations.

Preliminary movement data suggests that there are 4 primary summer ranges for adult female moose that winter in the Buffalo Valley – Lava Creek, Wolverine/Rodent Creek, Mink Creek/Phelps Pass, and Yellowstone River/Thorofare Creek. Physiological health indices indicated the following: 1) negative for 6 disease antigens; 2) low prevalence of endoparasites; 3) low to moderate tick loads; 4) blood parameter values comparable to studies conducted in Alaska; and 5) trace elements show some signs of deficiencies (e.g. P, Zn & Cu). The thesis for Phase I will be completed during the spring of 2008.

Phase II of the project was initiated with the capture of 29 additional moose during February, 2008. Phase II will further nutrition and habitat investigations. Its objectives are:

1. Characterize moose habitat condition and the nutritional quality of winter and summer browse.
2. Evaluate the influence of winter and summer habitat condition on cow survival, pregnancy, parturition, and calf and neonate survival.
3. Monitor pregnancy rates and in utero losses throughout winter and spring and evaluate these rates as a function of habitat use.
4. Evaluate the year-to-year variation in habitat use as influenced by the fidelity patterns of individual moose and annual variability in winter and summer climate.
5. Quantify the annual variation in moose demographic rates in relation to climate patterns and the pattern of past reproductive effort.
6. Characterize the timing of moose calf mortality and evaluate potential predator effects on neonate survival.
7. Test alternative capture methodologies (i.e., net gunning), and evaluate their influence on moose pregnancy and parturition.

Moose Habitat Inventory

The impetus behind conducting a moose habitat inventory were concerns that several of the moose herd units in Wyoming are experiencing poor calf recruitment and recent population declines. While the specific reason(s) for the declines are not fully understood, habitat conditions remain a common theme and are generally an important component of the decline equation. Thus, managers at recent herd unit review meetings have recommended field personnel develop habitat enhancement proposals benefiting moose. A proposal was developed to address the above recommendations by providing a systematic and comprehensive review, including management recommendations, of important moose habitats on a Herd Unit (HU) basis.

The primary objectives of the inventory assessment are:

1. Accelerate WGFD efforts to implement the Strategic Habitat Plan and wildlife habitat productivity with emphasis on moose.
2. Provide moose HU based maps and reports depicting current ecological conditions for important moose habitats.
3. Provide prioritized list of future habitat management recommendations for important habitats within HUs.
4. Use the above prioritized list to submit and solicit funding for habitat enhancement project proposals.

The goal is to enhance habitat for moose and the myriad of other wildlife species that utilize these areas.

A Request For Proposal (RFP) was prepared and the Teton Science Schools (TSS), Conservation Research Section, was the successful bidder. During 2007, the TSS completed the habitat assessment for most of the Jackson Moose HU (approximately 95,000 acres) and provided a preliminary report. Habitat evaluation components included: 1) dominant overstory and understory species composition; 2) site potential evaluation; 3) digital photos hyperlinked to display in ArcMap; and 4) management recommendations by geographic area.

Specific vegetation monitoring included:

1. Data collected on 38 representative sites (UTMs and photos taken at each site).
2. Three dominant under and overstory species identified for each habitat type.
3. Habitat community types identified.
4. Keigly's Live-Dead Index data collected.
5. Browse utilization levels.
6. % canopy of herbaceous and shrub/tree species.

Preliminary findings from the 2007 inventory include:

1. 26-80% use on important browse species.
2. Live-Dead mean index of +15 cm on important browse species.
3. Live-Dead index was greater for Geyer's vs Booth's and Drummond's willows.
4. Live-Dead index was generally correlated with % stems browsed.
5. Willows appear to be recovering from past utilization which may have been excessive.

In addition to the preliminary inventory assessment the TSS also proposed treatment recommendations for segments of the Buffalo Valley and Gros Ventre areas. An extension to the moose habitat and inventory assessment contract is being proposed for 2008. This 2008 proposal will continue habitat assessments on an additional 160,000 acres in the Sublette Moose Herd Unit (Figure 6).

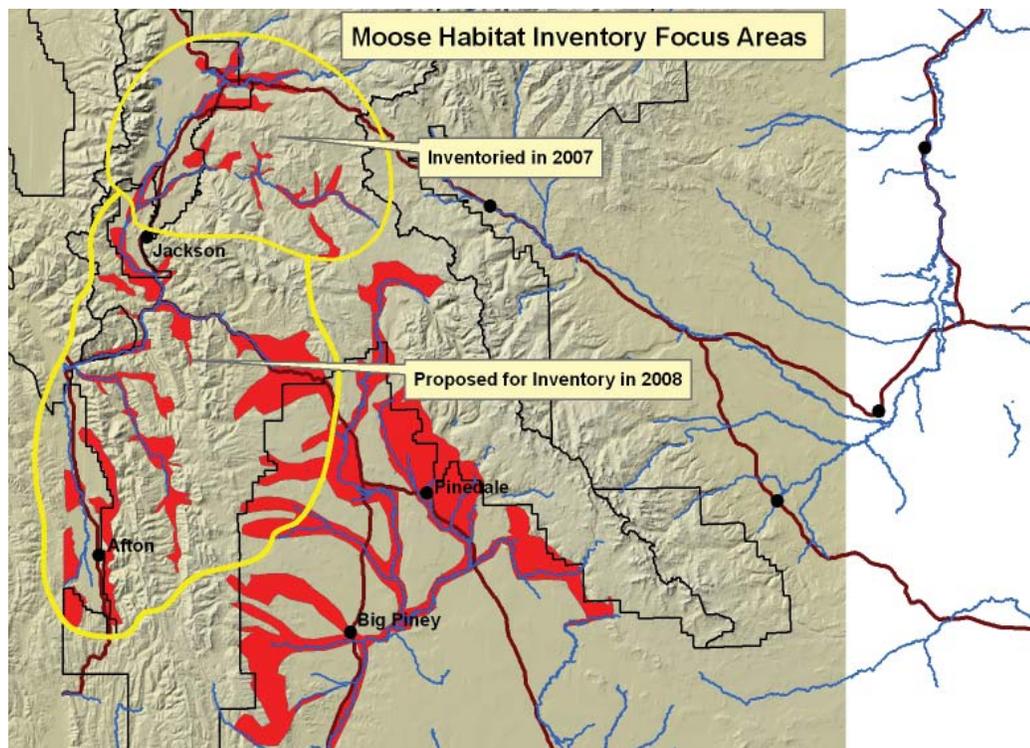


Figure 6. Moose habitat inventory areas.

Spring Creek Channel Enhancement

The Snake River Spring Creeks Enhancement Project was initiated in the winter of 2003. River and land management practices have changed the structure and function of these important stream habitats. Currently, these spring creeks have widened, become inundated with silt and aquatic vegetation, and stream velocities have decreased. In addition, plant succession in the riparian vegetation community has progressed from willow and cottonwood to Douglas fir and other conifers. The largest contributing factor to this degradation is the lack of flushing flows from the Snake River. The river has been leveed to resist flooding of private property and flushing flows are not possible. To address these issues, projects were developed and prioritized with the help of the following cooperators; WGFD, private landowners, Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming, Teton County Conservation District, conservation groups, and other agencies.

Three Creeks Ranch is an area of housing and recreational development. The developers have implemented stream improvements in an attempt to produce blue ribbon fisheries for their investors. With the work being implemented, the landowners downstream would like to maintain and enhance SRC spawning habitat. These habitats are critical for maintaining wild populations of SRC and are almost exclusively located on private lands. It is crucial to routinely restore, maintain, and ensure access to these spawning habitats. Therefore, plans were developed for the Spring Creek Channel Enhancement on the Jackson Hole Hereford Ranch. The possible tools for enhancement are excavation, adding spawning gravels, redistribution of large woody debris, revegetation, stream bank fill, and instream structures.

Surveys were completed and funding from the Teton Conservation District and WWNRT Board was secured. The project was to begin December 2007 but due to delays in the upstream projects, implementation was delayed until August and December 2008.

Fish Creek - Snake River Ranch Channel Enhancement

Fish Creek is a Snake River tributary that provides important habitat and spawning areas for native SRC. The Snake River Ranch, WGFD, and Teton Conservation District selected a reach of Fish Creek, located on the Snake River Ranch near Wilson, Wyoming, to improve habitat, stream function, and SRC spawning (Figure 7). This will be accomplished by using natural in-stream structures, dredging and excavating, and adding clean spawning gravel.

Currently there is little habitat diversity. Few pools, riffles, or areas of overhead cover exist. The channel substrate consists of medium to large cobbles and is embedded with fine sediment. The channel is also wide and shallow. Natural cottonwood root balls will be used as grade control structures and will help create and maintain trout refuge cover, feeding lanes, and spawning habitat. Through dredging and excavation, we will remove accumulated sediment to improve natural meanders and provide pool habitat. Spawning habitat will be provided at the tail-out or glide portion of the pool by adding gravel.



Figure 7. Fish Creek cross-section. Note the wide and straight channel form.

Lower Gros Ventre Vegetation Treatments

The inventory conducted in 2005 by David Alexander and members of the Jackson Inter-agency Habitat Initiative (JIHI), group resulted in a prescribed burn proposal for the lower Gros Ventre drainage. Approximately 16,684 acres have been targeted for future prescribed fire treatment. Two of the burn units totaling 5,642 acres were scheduled for treatment during 2007 (Figure 8.) Funding has been secured through the RMEF (\$13,000), Wyoming Foundation of North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) (\$3,000), and the WWNRT (\$50,000).

Dense forested habitat in traditional movement and winter range areas are affecting bighorn sheep by restricting movement, making sheep more susceptible to predation and reducing forage availability in winter range areas. Aspen community types are not meeting BTNF Forest Plan desired future conditions and are typically old-aged and decadent, and are being replaced by conifers.

Crews necessary to conduct the prescribed burn were not available until November, 2007 due to extensive wildfires throughout the nation. However, in early November, 2007 uncharacteristic warm temperatures and lack of snow accumulations provided a window for black lining two burn units. Crews were also able to treat approximately 400 acres within the burn units. The above accomplishments will allow for better containment during the 2008 burns.

Weiner Creek Aspen Burn Treatment

The partnership between Greys River Ranger District (GRRD) of the BTNF, WGFD, RMEF, and WWNRT continued for the Weiner Creek Aspen Burn Project. The GRRD attempted to burn the headwaters of Weiner and North Murphy Creeks (Figure 9). This project incorporates fire into vegetation management in the Greys River watershed. Aspen clones, conifer stands, and sagebrush communities have become monotypic and decadent, especially in the uplands. The main project goal is to restore the health and function of aspen stands on as much as 2,000 acres in the upper Weiner Creek watershed. This will enhance long-term sustainability and wildlife habitat.

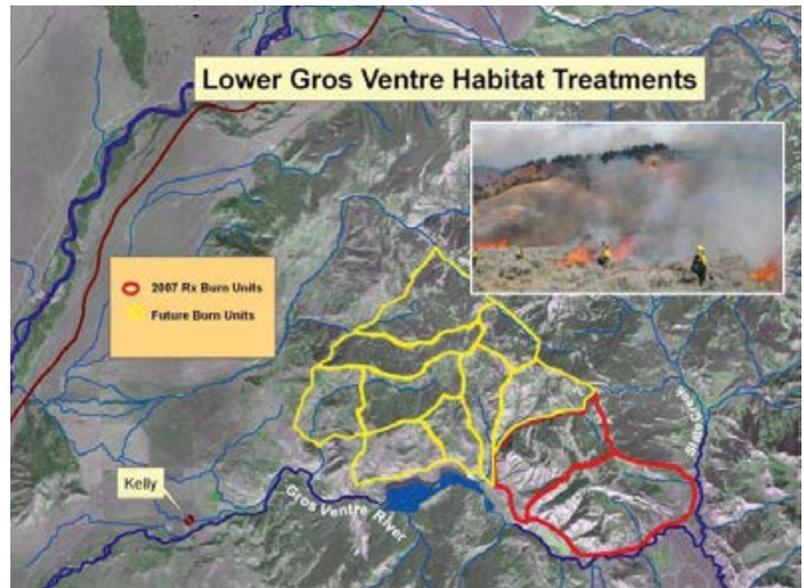


Figure 8. The lower Gros Ventre vegetation treatments are located near Turpin and Slate Creeks. Multiple burn units have been identified. Two of the units were blacklined and approximately 400 acres treated during the fall of 2007.

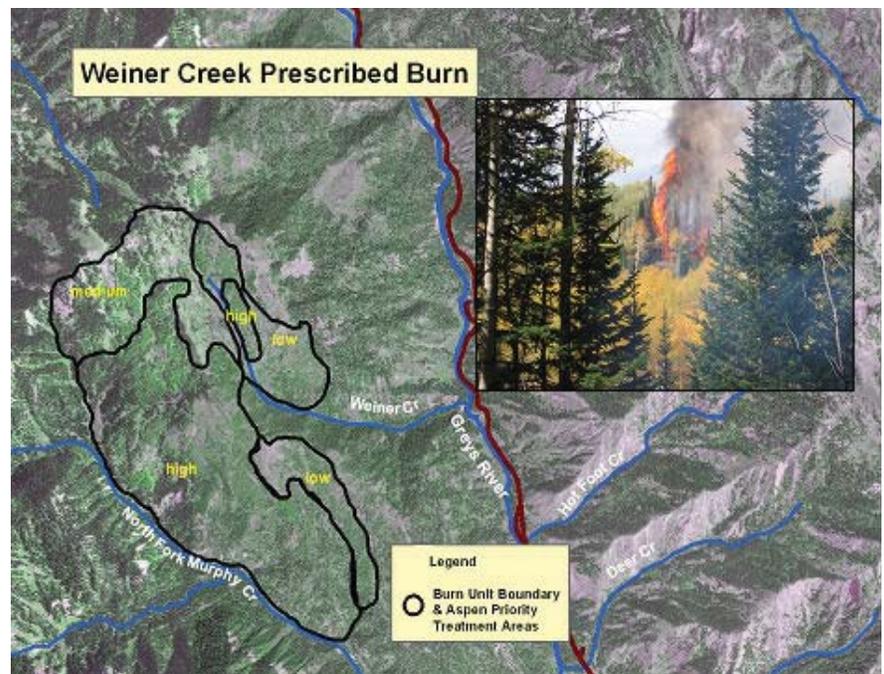


Figure 9. Map of treatment area in the Weiner Creek basin and photo of implementation.

Expected Results:

- Improve forage conditions in the upper Weiner Creek watershed.
- Improve habitat conditions for spring-fall use by elk in the Squaw Creek and Weiner Creek watersheds, with an emphasis on improving habitat for elk calving.
- Maintain about 30 percent of the brush/grassland in a brush/forb type while emphasizing maintenance of the aspen or conifer/brush ecotone.
- Reduce number of days that elk are utilizing feedground by approximately 2 weeks.
- Increase water yield for 1 mile of stream for spawning and migration of native and game fish.
- Expand aquatic habitat and increase instream diversity.
- Enhance riparian vegetation to maximum ecological potential.
- Increase Snake River cutthroat trout, non-game fish, and game fish populations throughout the drainage.
- Improve fishery quality for Greys River anglers.

Implementation began the week of September 17th. Weather condition pushed the fire toward the Squaw Creek drainage and fire crews spent time keeping the fire away from the south boundary. The North Murphy Creek side of the burn was not successful in carrying fire. Approximately 5% of the burn unit was treated and the project objectives were not met. The plan is further implementation during the late summer/fall of 2008 or possibly beyond, depending on the next available burn window.

Bradley Mountain Prescribed Burn Vegetation Treatment

The Greys River Ranger District of the BTNF, the WGFD, the WWNRT and other potential partners are proposing a prescribed burn on Bradley Mountain. The area consists of important elk and moose transition/winter range. The Bradley Mountain project area is located just east of Alpine, Wyoming along the eastern bank of the Greys River (Figure 10). The project area is approximately 4,300 acres and managers expect to apply fire to approximately 20-40% of the area. Some of the area will not carry a fire due to precipitous terrain with thin soils and sparse vegetation. Mechanical treatments may be used to supplement prescribed burning in some areas.

The project was not implemented in 2007 due to unfavorable prescribed burning conditions and a backlog of other habitat enhancement projects. Implementation is proposed for the spring/fall of 2008. Burn boundaries were inventoried and habitat/cover type mapped by WGFD personnel.



Figure 10. The Bradley Mountain project area is located just east of Alpine and is approximately 4,300 acres.

Wyoming Habitat Assessment Methodology (WHAM) surveys on the West Side of the Tetons

Fifteen miles of six streams were inventoried using the WHAM approach (Figure 11 and 12). Habitat conditions, fish passage barriers, human, and livestock utilization, beaver abundance and upland conditions were documented. Photos and records are in the WHAM database.



Figure 11. Conant Creek in the Teton River watershed.

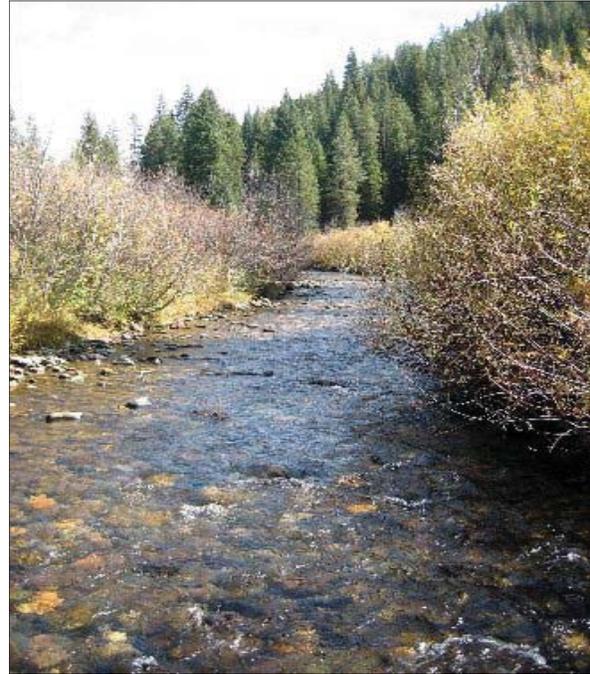


Figure 12. Potential Conant Creek reference reach.

This information will be used to identify reference reaches in the watershed. A reference reach is a stable channel within a particular stream and valley type. The reaches will be measured in detail in 2008 for pattern, profile, and dimension. That data will constitute a valuable model of a natural channel for that stream and valley type. The ratios from the models will be used to design future projects in the Jackson area.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Moose Working Group – Continue to chair the WGFD Moose Working Group. Attended the 43rd North American Moose Conference and Workshop in Prince George, BC. in June. Coordinated two internal WGFD Moose Working Group meetings and assisted/coordinated with the moose research in the Buffalo Valley area.
- Assisted/coordinated monitoring protocol and implementation associated with the Triple Peak Forage Reserve project in the Wyoming Range.
- Organized and held meetings for the Targhee Bighorn Sheep Working Group.
- WGFD lead and cooperator/liaison with BTNF summer travel plan development.
- Participation in the local Sage Grouse Working Group.
- Assistance with the WGFD's Brucellosis-Feedground-Habitat (BFH) program - elk disease surveillance, necropsies, vaccination, trap maintenance, etc.