

CODY REGION

HABITAT PROJECTS

Cooperative Prescribed Fire/Mechanical Treatment Projects with the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service

The WGFD cooperated in planning, funding and/or conducting several prescribed fire and mechanical treatment projects with the federal land management agencies in the Cody Region including:

- Breteche Creek Prescribed Burn: Approximately 100 acres were treated with prescribed fire on the BLM Stonebridge Allotment west of Cody. The objectives of the burns were to set back conifer encroachment and maintain sagebrush communities for the benefit of mule deer and elk. The project was conducted by the BLM Cody Field Office with assistance from WGFD.
- Polecat Bench Prescribed Burn: 80 acres of dense sagebrush were treated with prescribed fire on Polecat Bench north of Powell. An excellent mosaic was achieved using intensive ignition strategies and careful timing of ignition with weather conditions. The burns were conducted by the BLM Cody Field Office with assistance from WGFD. The objective was to provide patch diversity in sagebrush communities to primarily benefit sage-grouse.
- Little Mountain/Cottonwood Canyon Prescribed burns: Approximately 90 acres of juniper and mountain mahogany communities were treated with prescribed fire in the Little Mountain and Cottonwood Canyon areas east of Lovell (Figure 1). The objectives of the treatments were to remove encroaching junipers from sagebrush communities and to rejuvenate curleaf mountain mahogany stands that were overly dense and/or encroached by conifers. The burns were conducted by the BLM Cody Field Office with assistance from WGFD.



Figure 1. Prescribed burning curleaf mountain mahogany communities to remove conifer encroachment.

- 145 riparian acres mechanically and chemically treated on Gooseberry Creek.
- Fish Passage Database identifies hundreds of irrigation structures.
- Trout Unlimited and WGFD cooperate on 5 fish passage projects.
- RX burned 100 acres of elk winter range and mule deer transitional range in the North Fork of the Shoshone River drainage.
- Chemically treated over 400 acres of Russian olive, Russian knapweed and saltcedar on Yellowtail CRM area.
- RX burned 80 acres on Polecat bench for sage-grouse habitat improvement.
- Treated 800 acres of cheatgrass on the Renner WHMA.
- North Fork Canal fish entrainment evaluation underway.

Big Horn Basin Landcover Mapping Project

A project contracted with Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center (WyGISC) to map habitat types using satellite imagery continued into a third year. Satellite imagery for the entire Bighorn Basin has been acquired and the Bighorn Basin has been divided into five geographic priority areas for completion of mapping. The first priority area was defined as the Absaroka Front, bound by the Shoshone National Forest on west and roughly by the eastern boundaries of Park and Hot Springs Counties on the east. A two man crew consisting of a student intern supervised by the WGFD and a contract employee supervised by WyGISC collected vegetative cover data at over 400 “training points” during the 2008 field season to supplement data collected in 2006 and 2007 (Figure 2). A final habitat map for the first priority area is scheduled to be completed in 2009. The project is being funded by WGFD Trust Fund, BLM, Big Horn Basin Sage-grouse Local Working Group, and State Wildlife Grants (SWG).



Figure 2. Landcover mapping project field crew collecting training points.

Clark's Fork Aspen Enhancement

Implementation of the Clark's Fork Aspen Enhancement project was initiated in fall 2008 with hand cutting of ten acres of conifers in aspen communities in the Lake Creek area of the Shoshone National Forest. The Shoshone Forest fire crew felled the conifers during January and March 2008 (Figure 3). The area will be treated with prescribed fire after the needles on the felled trees turn red. The treatment was part of a larger project that will eventually treat 300-500 acres of aspen that was identified as high priority for treatment during an inventory conducted by WGFD in 2004. Approximately 50 acres were planned to be treated with a mechanical mulcher in 2009. Permanent transects were established in these areas to monitor the results of the treatments.



Figure 3. Aspen community with conifers felled in preparation for a prescribed burn.

Yellowtail Area Coordinated Resource Management

The Yellowtail Area Coordinated Resource Management team continued to manage invasive plants on agency and private lands in the Lower Shoshone and Bighorn River corridors. The CRM consists of the four landowners on the Yellowtail WHMA (National Park Service, WGFD, BLM, and Bureau of Reclamation), neighboring private landowners, the Bighorn County Weed and Pest, NRCS, and other interested parties.

The CRM hired a coordinator to assume the growing responsibilities of managing all the activities associated with weed management on over 30,000 acres. The coordinator is a contract employee with the Shoshone Conservation District and is directly supervised by the CRM steering committee.

The CRM contracted herbicide treatment of over 200 acres of Russian olive resprouts in areas that were mechanically treated in 2006 and 2007. Resprouts were treated using a foliar application of imazapyr herbicide prior to leaf drop in the fall. These areas had been stump treated with herbicide at the time of

mechanical treatment, but approximately 25% of the stumps were either missed by the sprayer or were not killed by the herbicide. The contractor also treated approximately 25 acres of tamarisk using a basal treatment with triclopyr herbicide and basal bark oil (Figure 4). Big Horn County Weed and Pest in various locations conducted chemical treatment of Russian knapweed, white top, and other noxious weeds.

Over 200 acres of Russian olive and tamarisk were identified for mechanical treatment in winter/spring 2009. A private archaeologist was contracted to perform the cultural clearance on 170 acres of the treatment area occurring on WGFD lands. A contract for the mechanical treatments was let to Robert Raynor of Lander, Wyoming. Mr. Raynor will use a tracked excavator with a Sneller brush shredder attachment.

In January and February 2008, 230 head of cattle were grazed in two pastures as part of a winter grazing program initiated in 2002. Cattle are confined with electric fence to small pastures strategically located throughout the Shoshone River bottom. Pastures are designed to be no wider than $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and stretch from the river to dry upland habitat. The primary objectives of the grazing program are to reduce the risk of wildfire by removing fine fuels prior to the spring wildfire threat, rejuvenate grass/forb communities, and create areas of higher quality brood-rearing habitat for upland birds. Ice jams in the Shoshone River precluded the use of all the planned grazing pastures.

The saltcedar biocontrol program in the Yellowtail CRM using the insect, *Diorhabda elongata*, (Figure 5) continues to be monitored by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). As of 2007, 11% of marked saltcedar plants were determined to be killed by insect herbivory. Insects have dispersed to over 50% of the CRM area.

Boer goats were used during the 2008 season to control invasive plants as a continuing program that was initiated in 2004. Four areas were treated with 1,500 goats in 2008. With the exception of one area that was fenced with permanent electric fence, goats were confined to designated areas through intensive herding. Two areas were selected for targeted grazing on the Big Horn River that contained extensive infestations of Russian knapweed and tamarisk. Two other areas on the Shoshone River were selected to target grazing on Russian olive, tamarisk and whitetop. The same areas are targeted each year so that repeated browsing will place stress on targeted plants. Several monitoring studies were established to document changes in weed prevalence over time to determine the success of the goat treatments.

In November the CRM hosted an open house and barbeque to present to the public a visual presentation of all the activities the CRM had conducted since its inception. The contractors that provide cattle and goat grazing treatments donated goat meat and beef for the barbeque.



Figure 4. Backpack spraying of tamarisk on the Yellowtail CRM area.



Figure 5. Defoliated tamarisk from herbivory by *Diorhabda elongata* along the Bighorn River.

Lovell High School, as part of their “CRM in the Classroom” program, undertook several research/monitoring projects associated with invasive plant management on the CRM area. Projects included the continuation of a Russian knapweed seed viability study started in 2007, permanent vegetative trend studies (Figure 6), and chemical effectiveness monitoring of Russian olive and tamarisk treatments.

Fish Passage Improvements

A coordinated effort is underway to improve upstream fish passage and reduce fish entrainment around the state. The Department is cooperating with other agencies, interest groups, and private individuals at several project sites. Efforts include issue identification, prioritization, suggested treatments, plan review, and identification of potential funding partners, as well as Departmental funding when possible. Matching funds were provided in the form of two block grants to the NRCS and local Conservation Districts in the Sheridan Region to work on a total of seven sites. Department personnel also reviewed project designs for several other potential projects and are completing the final design on Kendrick Dam. A Trust Fund Grant, plus additional fish passage money, was provided to Trout Unlimited to cooperatively improve five sites in the Pine-dale region and another Trust Fund proposal was submitted to grant funds toward the Francs Fork road-crossing project next year. Designs, agreements, and contracts were developed with private landowners for two fish screens in the Cody region. Potential projects were discussed with conservation districts and private landowners in the Laramie and Jackson Regions and funding applications are being developed. In addition, the Department hired consultant engineers to develop concept designs for seven irrigation diversions within the Cody and Lander Regions. Once concept designs are reviewed, projects will proceed to final design and construction as funding allows. Potential upstream passage and canal screening designs are being considered at each site as needed.



Figure 6. Lovell High School students reading a nested frequency transect for the “CRM in the Classroom” program.

Figures 7 through 11 show a variety of different size projects currently being investigated, or already initiated.

Figures 7 and 8 are representative of larger projects being undertaken. Corbett Dam (Figure 7) needs an upstream bypass channel and fish screens for the Shoshone Irrigation Canal. Primary benefits would be for a variety of trout species within a blue ribbon stream. Screen designs are being developed for Cody Canal (Figure 8) since 2007 entrainment studies showed losses of 6 native and 3 non-native fish species numbering over 50,000 annually.



Figure 7. Corbett Dam on the Lower Shoshone River near Cody.



Figure 8. Cody Canal Irrigation Diversion on the South Fork Shoshone River near Cody.

The Harmony Ditch (Figure 9) upstream passage and screening project is an example of a mid-sized project that will benefit sauger, catfish and several other native, cool water species. Another mid-sized project is the Sidon Canal box-culvert crossing in Bitter Creek (Figure 10) which results in a definite barrier to native cool water fish and brown trout. A combination fish ladder and bypass channel is being investigated to solve this problem.



Figure 9. Harmony Ditch on the Nowood River near Manderson.

Figure 10. Sidon Canal crossing on Bitter Creek near Lovell.

Figures 11 and 12 are relatively smaller projects that will provide important benefits to Wyoming fisheries. The Bear Creek diversion (Figure 11) and headgate located on the WGFD's Spence/Moriarity Wildlife Management Area is in need of replacement to provide a better functioning diversion while also allowing upstream passage. A fish screen is needed in the canal to prevent loss of Yellowstone cutthroat trout and other native species. Cooperative efforts are underway to replace the Francs Fork road crossing (Figure 12), which is a partial barrier to Yellowstone cutthroat trout that spawn upstream.



Figure 11. Bear Creek Ditch on Bear Creek near Dubois.

Figure 12. Francs Fork Creek road crossing near Meeteetse.

North Fork Fish Entrainment Evaluation

N Cody biologists undertook a fish entrainment study on the North Fork Canal, a diversion from the North Fork Shoshone River. A structure (Figure 13) was constructed to allow netting of fish entrained into the canal during specified time periods throughout the irrigation season. Netted fish were documented by species, weight, and length to identify a representative sample of fish normally lost to the canal. Results will also indicate the critical time of year, time of day (dawn, daytime, dusk, or night), and approximate flow conditions that the majority of fish or individual species are lost. This was the first year of sampling at this site and sampling is being considered for 2009.



Figure 13. Structure and associated netting for evaluating fish loss down the North Fork Canal.

Statewide Fish Passage Inventory

A statewide fish passage database was developed to inventory, track, and prioritize fish passage structures and potential projects. Examples of database fields include site location, name, ownership, detailed information about natural or man-made structures, species affected, and potential for upstream passage or fish loss through entrainment. The database is currently populated with basic locations for 471 structures (Figure 14).

Presently this is an internal system, but long-term goals are to house this database and associated GIS layers in a manner that facilitates access by state, federal, and public partners. Database records were collected from various sources including internet sources like the point of diversion data compiled by Basin Advisory Groups through the water planning process underway with the Wyoming Water Development Commission. The intent is to supplement these data with further details documented on site. Department personnel have also collected information on smaller tributary streams. Data remains to be entered and much of the diversions or passage obstructions around the state are not represented. For example, the Bridger Teton National Forest has provided an inventory of 371 culverts that have not been linked to the system and other forests are developing similar information.

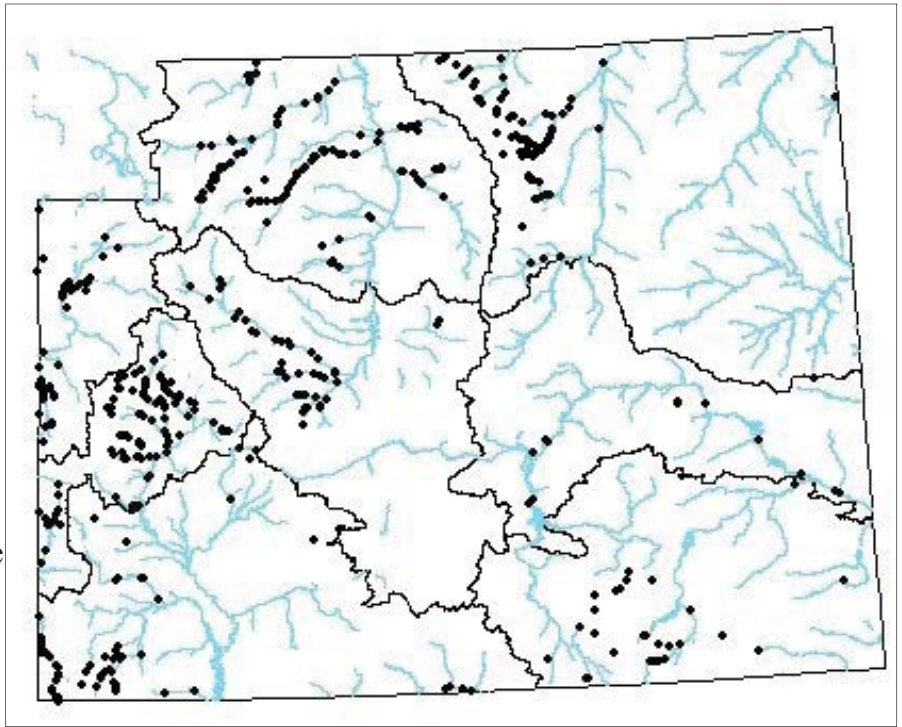


Figure 14. Irrigation diversions and headgates in the fish passage database.

Black Mountain Sagebrush Restoration

Funding was secured for the planting of 12,000 sagebrush tublings in the 50,000 acre Black Mountain wildfire southeast of Worland. The wildfire burned large areas of Wyoming big sagebrush that served as pronghorn and mule deer winter range as well as breeding, nesting and winter range for sage-grouse. The objective of the project is to establish seed sources within the burn by creating group plantings of sagebrush in select areas. Sagebrush seed was hand collected near the project by BLM and WGF D personnel in December 2008. The seed will be sent to a nursery in Montana to be grown and shipped for planting in Fall 2009.

Kirby Watershed Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project

The Kirby Creek CRM group is continuing to plan and implement projects that focus on restoring ecological functions within the watershed. Existing CCRP projects on Kirby Creek are showing a tremendous vegetative response and are providing quality habitat for beaver, mule deer, sage grouse, and migratory songbirds. The Kirby Watershed Wildlife Enhancement Project is being expanded to restore riparian habitat and stream form and function and improve range conditions within the 250,000 acre Kirby Creek drainage. Work thus far has focused on removal of grazing pressure on riparian areas, extensive water development, removal of invasive Russian olive and salt cedar, and experimental weed control of white-top. A large project has been initiated to install in-stream structures to slow water velocity and decrease the massive erosion events that are occurring. The in-stream structures that were installed in the upper reaches of Kirby Creek on Linda Reed's property in 2007 funded by a 319 Grant and WWNRT had some structural failures with the high water in the spring, but the engineering contractor is planning on making repairs during the winter of 2009. A grant was approved by WWNRT for another large in-stream structure to check the velocity and sedimentation of Kirby Creek at Stan's Folly. This project is temporarily on hold due to a lack of funding for engineering and design of the project.

One new CCRP was initiated with Mishurda Mountain Ranches in 2008 that will focus on riparian restoration within the drainage. The fencing for this CCRP was finished in December, and photos were taken during the summer of 2008 to help document riparian improvements in the future. Two large-scale livestock water pipelines feeding 8 stock tanks were completed utilizing Wyoming Water Development funds and NRCS EQIP dollars. Two spring developments with associated livestock tanks were installed in 2008. Four ponds were installed or restored, and the disturbed areas surrounding these ponds were seeded to increase dike strength and reduce erosion potential. Cooperators for all projects on Kirby Creek include WGFD, BLM, NRCS, RC&D, DEQ, Wyoming Water Development, Hot Springs County Weed and Pest, Hot Springs County Conservation District, and private landowners. Total project cost for this drainage thus far is \$1,477,727, excluding a portion of new contracts. The primary funding sources for this watershed include DEQ 319 funds, Continuous CRP, WWNRT, Hot Springs County Weed and Pest, WGFD, EQIP, WWDC, Private Grazing Lands Initiative, and private landowners.

Nowood River Riparian Enhancement Project

In November of 2007, a project was initiated to improve the riparian areas within the Nowood River Watershed. All landowners owning property adjacent to the Nowood River were contacted to determine whether there was sufficient landowner support to warrant such a project. A total of 22 contracts have been initiated to control Russian olive and salt cedar on over 2,500 acres within the 1,287,000 acre Nowood Watershed. These contracts are for the single practice of Pest Management- initial control of Russian olive and salt cedar- however, all landowners are encouraged to implement managed grazing of riparian areas, and re-establishment of native woody species through future farm bill contracts or technical assistance. The primary funding source for this project thus far is USDA Agriculture Management Assistance (AMA) funds. Additional funding was acquired through WWNRT in the amount of \$115,000. 1,124 acres were mechanically treated, and 75.6 acres were chemically treated in 2008. Many of the landowners on the Nowood have chosen to complete the work themselves rather than hire contractors. In doing so, the landowners have taken full ownership of the project and will likely put forth efforts to maintain the work they have completed. However, costs are significantly higher on many of these properties where landowners are doing control work by hand, as opposed to the costs when a contractor is hired. To date, the total project cost is: \$194,092.50. Cooperators for this project include: NRCS, WGFD, Washakie County Conservation District, Big Horn County Conservation District, Washakie County and Big Horn County Weed and Pest, and private landowners.

Gooseberry Watershed Enhancement Project

Work was continued on the Gooseberry Watershed Enhancement Project. This is an ongoing project in the 500,000 acre Gooseberry drainage to restore and enhance 2,000 acres of riparian habitat and stream form and function. The primary focus is the removal of invasive Russian olive and tamarisk and the restoration of native woody communities through a cooperative watershed-wide effort. Approximately 4 stream miles (145 riparian acres) were mechanically and chemically treated with chainsaws and foliar treatments in the fall 2008 Gooseberry Creek work days (Figure 15). Some of this work was on areas that have never been treated previously. One crew worked on the Killifish Section of Gooseberry Creek, which is a BLM stretch that was aerially treated in 2004, but no follow-up was conducted and re-sprouts had reached near pre-treatment densities. These work days were accomplished through a cooperative effort including personnel from the WGFD, NRCS, RC&D, Washakie and Hot Springs County Weed and Pest District, BLM, and eight private landowners.



Figure 15. Gooseberry Creek 2008 fall work days resulted in 145 acres of Russian olive and tamarisk treatment.

In the winter of 2008 a gyrotrack implement was put to use on two previously untreated private properties totaling 155 acres. All follow-up foliar treatments in the summer of 2008 were accomplished with a 1.5-2% solution of Imazapyr. Contracts were initiated with 2 new landowners in this drainage in 2008 including a CCRP contract that will protect nearly 150 acres of riparian area from grazing and allow native trees and shrubs to establish. The total cost for projects implemented in the calendar year 2008 was \$102,185, excluding a portion of new contracts. The total project cost for the entire watershed thus far is \$1,104,209. In the spring of 2008, 250 willow cuttings and 30 cottonwood cuttings were planted on acres enrolled in CCRP on Gooseberry Creek. (Figure 16a and 16b). Plans are in place to use remaining WWNRT dollars to complete a single mechanical and chemical treatment this winter on the remaining acreages that are left untreated at this point.



Figures 16a and Figure 16b. Gooseberry Creek 2004 before (left) and 2008 after (right) salt cedar and Russian olive treatments.

The CCRP Riparian Buffer program has been the primary funding source used to plan, implement and complete this project. Other funding sources include EQIP, Washakie County and Hot Springs County Weed and Pest Districts, WGFD, BLM, Washakie County Conservation District, WBGGLC, WWNRT), State Lands, and private landowners.

Cottonwood/Grass Creek Watershed Improvement Project

In August of 2007 steps were taken to begin working actively on the salt cedar and Russian olive invasion on Cottonwood Creek. A CRM/WID (Watershed Improvement District) has been in place since 2005, and large tracts of the 270,000 acre watershed have been inventoried for all noxious and invasive weed species through individual and Hot Springs County Weed and Pest efforts. Within the Cottonwood/Grass Creek Watershed, a Weed Management Area has been in effect on Grass Creek, and is highly effective at finding and treating infestations of all weed species on the Grass Creek portion of the watershed. Two NRCS AMA contracts and one EQIP contract were signed to begin working on the salt cedar and Russian olive infestation on Cottonwood Creek. Mechanical and chemical treatments took place on 35 acres in 2008 through the one EQIP contract. In January, 2009 mechanical control of mainly salt cedar will begin on 310 acres signed under the AMA Program. Currently the largest funding source for this project is the WWNRT which has allocated \$225,000 to the project, followed by USDA AMA funding which has obligated \$64,890 to individual landowners on Cottonwood. The majority of the landowners with property bordering Cottonwood Creek are expected to apply for NRCS cost share dollars in the next sign up period. Other cooperators include: USDA/NRCS, WGFD, Washakie and Hot Springs County Conservation Districts, Hot Springs and Washakie County Weed and Pest, Cottonwood/Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District, BLM, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Hot Springs County Commissioners, Wyoming State Lands and Investments, and Wyoming State Forestry.

Production/Utilization Surveys

Regional wildlife personnel collected production utilization data at ten sagebrush transects during 2008 (Figure 17). Production of sagebrush over most of the area was above average following two good precipitation years in 2007 and 2008. Utilization at all transects has been light, only exceeding 35% of leaders browsed once at two locations in the last three years. While pointing to evidence that populations are in balance with the amount of winter forage, this may also reflect the fact that the Cody Region has experienced mild winters with big game distributed more widely over winter ranges rather than concentrating animals on crucial winter ranges where utilization studies are located. Light utilization has occurred in spite of extremely poor sagebrush production in 2004 and 2006 due to drought conditions (Figure 18).

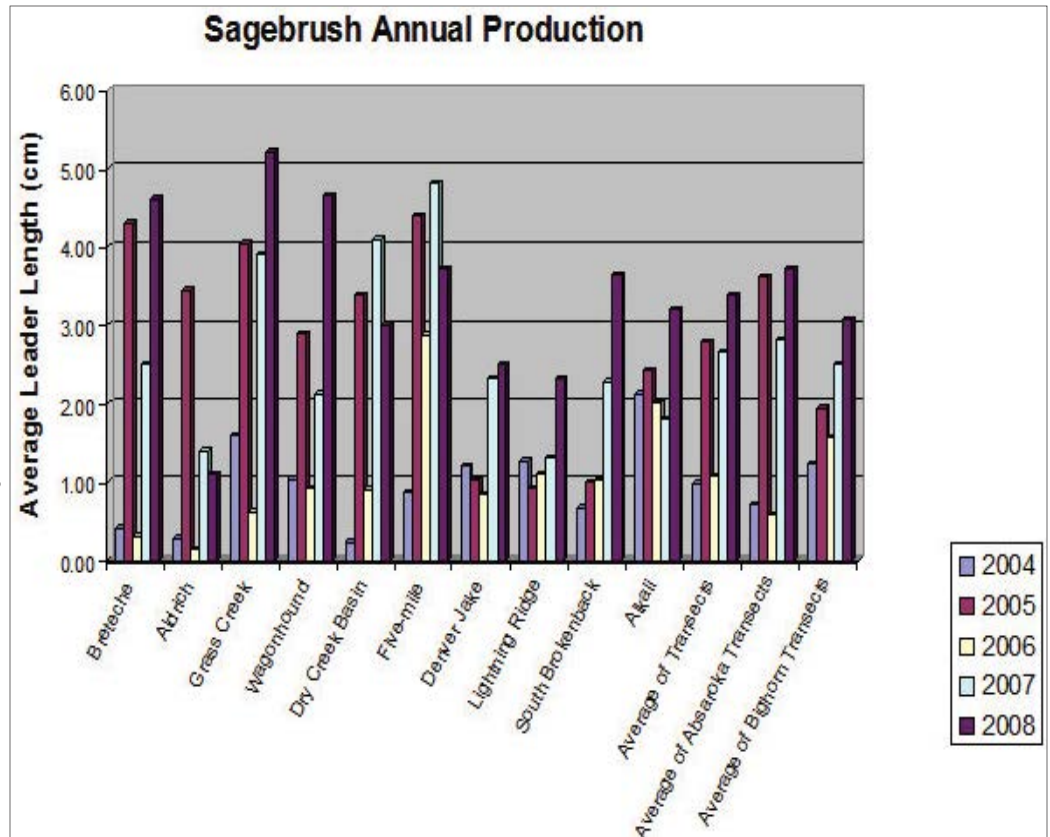


Figure 17. Annual production of sagebrush at ten locations in the Cody Region. Note the poor production in 2004 and 2006 due to extremely poor spring moisture conditions.

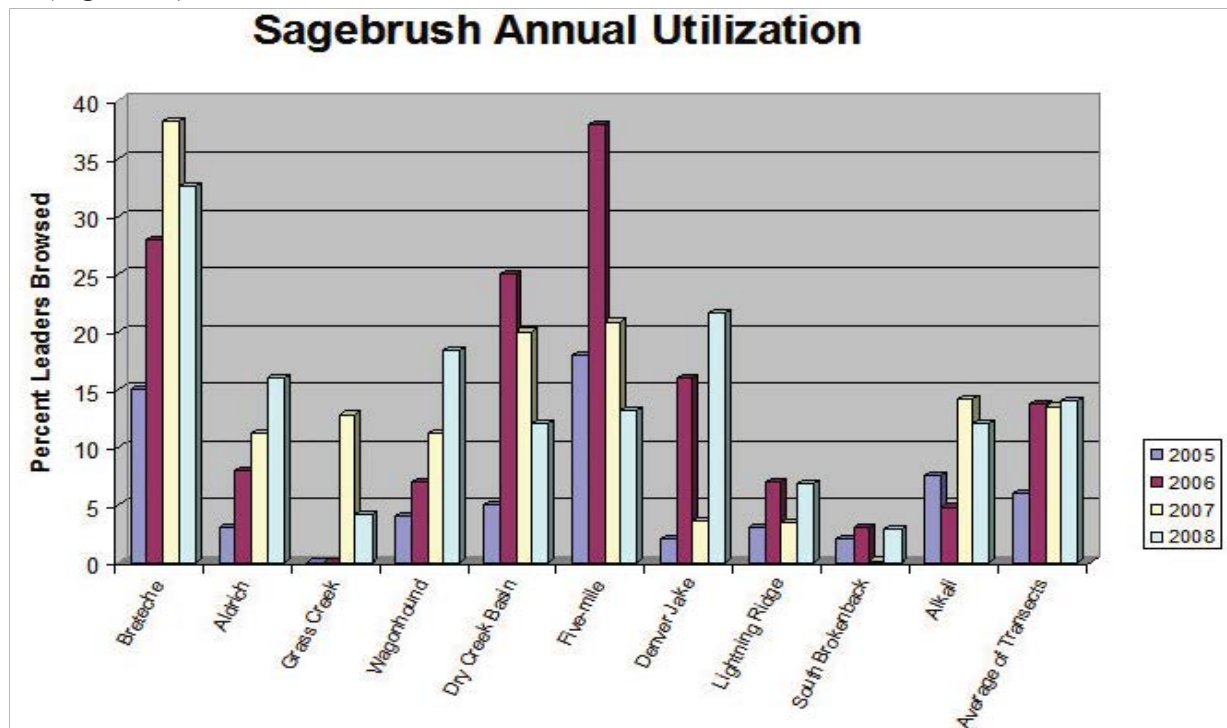


Figure 18. Utilization of sagebrush expressed as percent of that years annual leaders browsed at ten locations in the Cody Region.

HABITAT EXTENSION SERVICES

One hundred and forty landowner contacts were made, and of these contacts twenty-six resulted in Farm Bill contracts. Twenty contacts along the Nowood River resulted in AMA projects funded for Russian olive and salt cedar control. Other contacts initiated were: 5 CRP projects (3 in Hot Springs County, 1 in Washakie County, and 1 in Park County), 1 new WHIP project in Big Horn County, follow-up on 2 completed EQIP contracts, follow-up on 6 CCRP contracts in Park, Hot Springs, Washakie, and Big Horn Counties, assistance on 3 EQIP Wildlife Initiative contracts, and follow-up on 1 WHIP contract. Monitoring sites were set up on all 20 of the Nowood River AMA contracts which included photo points, belt transects, total production, and line-point intercept.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS

Renner Cheatgrass Control

Over 800 acres of cheatgrass dominated rangeland on the Renner WHMA was aeri ally sprayed with Plateau herbicide (Figure 19). The treatment was contracted with North Star Helicopters of Texas. A six ounce per acre application rate of herbicide and a total volume (herbicide + water) of ten gallons per acre was applied during the first week of September. Mid way through the treatment it was observed that cheatgrass had started to emerge following above average fall precipitation events. A surfactant was added to the applied volume to increase the effectiveness of the herbicide on the young cheatgrass plants. Nested Frequency and clipping studies were established in treatment areas and nontreatment areas prior to the project to monitor effectiveness of the treatment.



Figure 19. Helicopter filling its spray tank from a tender during the Renner Cheatgrass Control project.

The area treated was in the Lower Mountain Pasture, one of the most important areas on the WHMA for wintering elk. Seven years of drought and three years of severe grasshopper outbreaks contributed to a proliferation of cheatgrass on the project area.

Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area – Fence mapping and removal

The purpose of this project was to map fences in the Yellowtail WHMA, identify which fences are high priorities for removal, which have historic value and must remain, and which are used under current grazing plans. The majority of the WHMA was historically farmed and a large number of abandoned barbed wire fences remain in the area. These fences have deteriorated and are a hazard to wildlife, hunters and bird hunting dogs. 1.9 miles of very overgrown fence was removed by the National Park Service and Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) crews. Another 12 miles of fences were walked, mapped, and classified. Future fence removal is planned.

Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area – Permanent Cover and Food Plots

Fifteen acres of grass legume mix cover field was mowed to a height of 8" to stimulate new growth and production. An additional thirty-eight acres of cover and food plots were irrigated and nineteen acres inter-seeded. Forty-six acres of grain were left un-harvested for wildlife utilization.

Sunlight Basin Wildlife Habitat Management Area – Forage Production

The meadows production chart shows average production in the irrigated meadows (Figure 20). Data is collected in September from 16 sites.

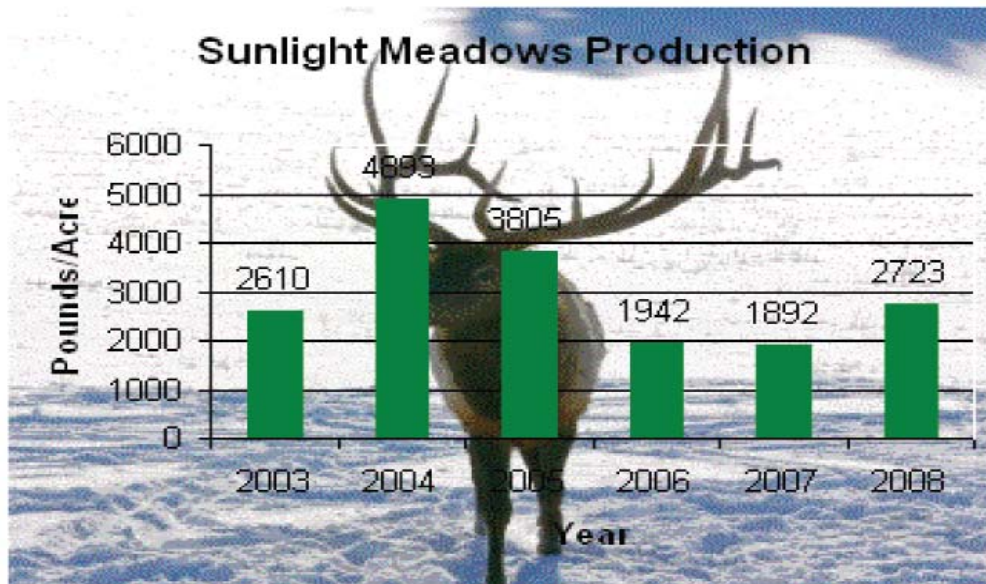


Figure 20. Average production on irrigated meadows on Sunlight Basin WHMA.

The natural production chart (Figure 21) indicates production levels of non-irrigated sites above the irrigated meadows but on the WHMA. Data is being collected from seven clipping sites.

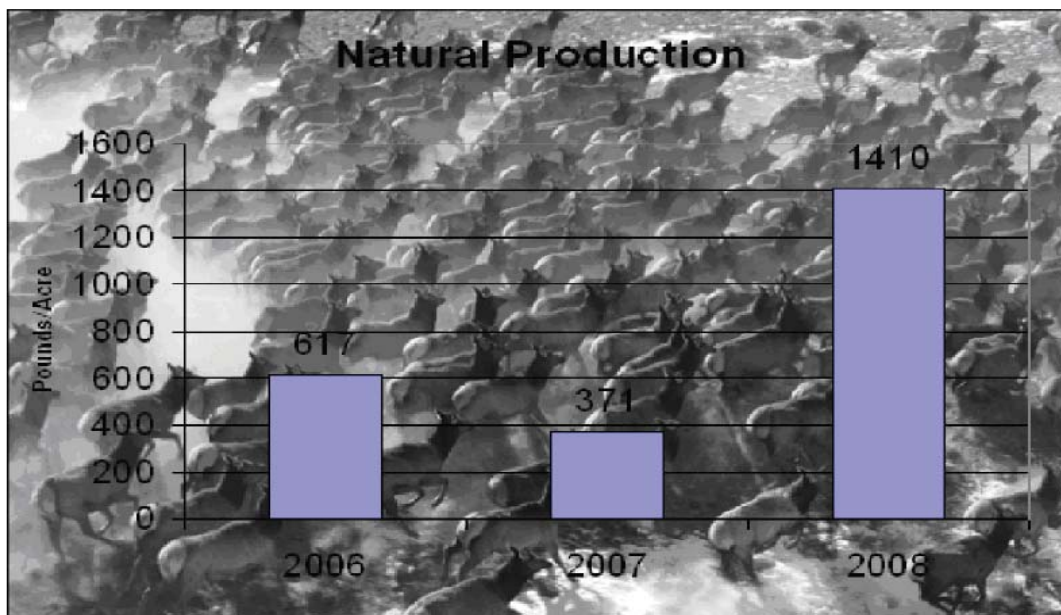


Figure 21. Production levels of non-irrigated sites on Sunlight Basin WHMA.

Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area Wetlands

Dikes were mowed at several of the wetlands to remove tamarisk, Russian olive and other woody vegetation (Figure 22) along with chemical application on cut stumps (Figure 23 and 24).



Figure 22. Mowing on Yellowtail WHMA.



Figure 23 and Figure 24. Yellowtail WHMA before (left) and after (right) mowing and chemical application.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Assisted in organizing and attended Russian olive and salt cedar removal demonstration on the Nowood river and discussed the process to apply for funding with landowners present.
- Organized and participated in 3 Gooseberry Creek work days.
- Regional habitat priorities were updated and grouped as crucial or enhancement areas. All areas were identified based on the values and issues within each area as recognized by the regional personnel. Maps and narratives were developed for each area describing the area, its importance, and recommended actions were listed.
- A contract was developed with a Cody area contractor to install a horizontal fish screen on a Trout Creek diversion ditch. A separate contract was developed to purchase the screen from Intralox. The screen will be installed in 2009.