

Sheep Mountain Grass-Forb Montane Restoration Project FY07 Accomplishment Report

The Lolo National Forest Botany Department, in cooperation with the Missoula District Weed Coordinator (Carl Anderson) and the Couer d'Alene (CDA) Nursery worked together in a pilot project to restore one-acre of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) dominated rangeland in the Rock Creek drainage in western Montana. Several forb and grass seeds were collected during the summer including (but not limited to): arrowleaf balsamroot, pussytoes, prairie smoke, cutleaf daisy, buckwheats, senecios, Idaho fescue, Sandberg's bluegrass, prairie junegrass, and bluebunch wheatgrass. Seeds were cleaned, packaged, and stored at the CDA Nursery until planting in the fall.



Arrowleaf balsamroot seedheads

The composition of the acre was assessed using photo points and a point intercept method along three line transects prior to herbicide spraying.

Backpack sprayers were used to treat the one acre with 6-8 ounces of Plateau per acre on October 9. Fall regrowth of grasses was 1-3 inches tall by the time of herbicide spraying. The acre was not burned prior to spraying since litter buildup was determined to be insufficient to warrant treatment. In addition, this year had record high temperatures and the threat of an accidental uncontrolled burn was high.



Aram at the CDA Nursery with Lolo's seed collections

The acre was planted on October 23 with 6 pounds of arrowleaf balsamroot seed, 2 pounds of additional forb seeds, 7 pounds of grass seed, and 5 pounds of plant material. The CDA Nursery supplied 3 pounds of Idaho fescue for this project. In addition, \$5,000 was obligated to the nursery to "grow out" 2 pounds of bluebunch wheatgrass and 1/4 pound of western yarrow seeds for future revegetation projects. This seed was collected on the Lolo NF in 2003 and sent to the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center. Within two years, the 2 pounds of grass seed is projected to produce between 150 to 200 pounds of seed. Lolo botanists will monitor the herbicide and seeding treatments for at least 3 years.

Year Awarded: 2007

Project completion: October 2007

Report number: 1

Expenditures:

- FY07 funding: \$14,000
- Expend: \$14,000
- Remaining: 0

Partners:

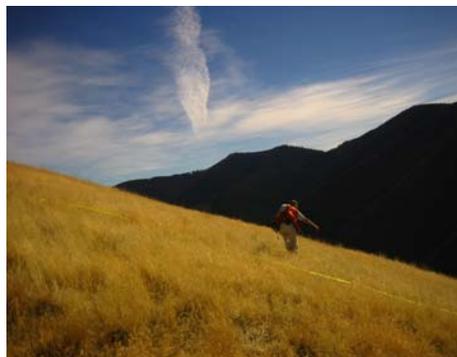
Missoula District Weed Coordinator
Couer d'Alene Nursery
Aberdeen Plant Materials Center

Contact Person:

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Acre treated with Plateau



Seeding



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