

# Beattie Gulch Vegetation Restoration Project Gallatin National Forest

## 2009 Accomplishments

The Gallatin National Forest and Yellowstone National Park jointly acquired approximately 2,000 acres of abandoned farm lands over the past 20 years along the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park. Four hundred acres of this acquisition occur on the Gallatin National Forest and are targeted for restoration to native species. The Beattie Gulch project is the second in a series of four project areas. Restoration is intended to reduce exotic plants and re-establish native vegetation, ultimately restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat. The National Park Service is engaged in similar restoration work within their boundaries.

Historically, the Beattie Gulch area was tilled and irrigated as a hayfield since the turn of the century. Currently the vegetation is comprised primarily of weedy annual species, remnant alfalfa, and crested wheatgrass.

Restoration activities in 2009 included seed collection of local native species as well as construction of a wildlife fence. Native grasses collected for grow-out included bluebunch wheatgrass, Great Basin wildrye, needle and thread, and prairie junegrass. The native seed will be grown out and increased for two years at the Coeur d'Alene Nursery

The multi-year project will include site preparation and planting of a cover crop within the project area (2010-2011) followed by seeding of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs (2012).



Figure 1. Existing weedy vegetation in Beattie Gulch



Figure 2. Beattie Gulch area near Gardiner, Montana

### Accomplishments in 2009 included:

- Completion of NEPA
- Coordination with Yellowstone National Park
- Wildland collection of local grass seed
- Contract solicitation and award for both the restoration work as well as wildlife fencing

**Year Awarded:** 2009

**Project completion:** 2012

**Report number:** 1 of 4

**Expenditures (through 2009):** \$121,000 obligated through the nursery and to contractors

**Partners:** Yellowstone National Park, NRCS, Coeur d'Alene Nursery

**Contractors:** Troy Smith – Arrowhead Excavating (planting) and Menard Construction Inc. (fencing)

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