

French Creek Willow Restoration Project

Black Hills National Forest, Hell Canyon Ranger District

2012 Accomplishments

Background

- Approximately 5 miles of the Upper French Creek drainage was surveyed in 2010. Of that, 3 miles were identified in need of woody plant regeneration.
- Upper French Creek has a long history of impacts from placer gold mining, roads, logging, subdivisions, and livestock grazing.
- Large scale placer mining had virtually eliminated willows from the riparian areas.
- A grant was submitted and approved by the Custer County Resource Advisory Committee.
- This project will help to restore and improve fisheries and wildlife habitat, protect and enhance streambanks and riparian ecosystems, and reestablish native species.
- The Forest Service is taking a holistic approach to improving riparian conditions along French Creek. Additional grazing management projects are planned that will contribute to riparian enhancements.



Willow Collection and Planting

- *Salix exigua* and *S. bebbiana* were the main species collected for transplanting
- Stems were cut whole and all branches and leaves were stripped.
- Stems were soaked for 12-20 days at the planting site.
- Over the course of 2 weeks, district personnel and Job Corp students harvested 4,500 willows stems equaling approximately 9,000 actual transplants.
- 1.9 miles of stream planted and 3.0 acres of additional riparian habitat planted. This equals about 7 acres of total willow restoration.



Year Awarded: initial award in FY2011

Project completion: 2012

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures: \$10,500

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Boxelder Job Corp Center,
Custer County Resource Advisory Committee

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