Holistic Grassland Rehabilitation: Phase II

Bitterroot National Forest

2006 Accomplishments

Part A of Project Proposal:

• Purchased native grass seed from Coeur d'Alene Nursery for broadcast seeding.

• Contractor collected 39.5 lbs of arrowleaf balsamroot seed (out of 50 lbs requested); 2.8 lbs of yarrow seed (out of 5 lbs requested); and 10 lbs of sulphur-flowered buckwheat seed.

• Forest crew collected native shrub seed for propagation.

• Used \$926 to help pay for a photopoint contract of burned area vegetation recovery (deviation from original proposal, but photos include the areas within this NFN3 project).

Part A and B of Proposal:

• Seeded 50 acres with native grass seed provided by the Coeur d'Alene Nursery (mixture of slender wheatgrass, Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass) and forb seed collected above on burned grasslands in the Sula Peak and Gibbons Pass Road areas.

Part B of Proposal:

• Forest Service personnel applied prescribed fire to approximately 4 acres of cheatgrass in the Gibbons Pass grasslands, followed by grass seeding with native species (see above). Extreme fire conditions prevented the prescribed burn treatment of the desired number of sites. Planned follow-up application of the annual grass-specific herbicide, Plateau, was delayed due to poor moisture / germination conditions of the target plant. However, herbicide application will occur this fall using a different fund source in order to complete the range of treatments in the project plan.

• A small two-year service contract (\$2,480) was awarded to Pokorny Plant Ecology LLC for additional revegetation work and establishment of monitoring plots / photo points to track treatment results on the Sula Peak and Gibbons Pass sites.



Cheatgrass burn prior to seeding and planting of grass plugs.

Year Awarded: 2006

Project completion: 2006

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures:

• FY06 funding \$44,350, expended \$39,588.77

Contractors:

Bitterroot Restoration, Inc., Corvallis, MT; and Pokorny Plant Ecology LLC

Contact Persons & phone numbers: <u>Part A:</u> Linda Pietarinen, Bitterroot Forest Botanist, (406) 363-7172

Part B: Gil Gale, Bitterroot Forest Invasive Plants / Rangelands Program Leader, (406) 821- 2318



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