

# Curlew National Grassland Off-Center Plant Testing Site

## 2009 Accomplishments

The Curlew National Grassland (NG) was designated a National Grassland on June 20, 1960 and is administrated by the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The Grassland comprises 47,000 acres of public land. It is the only National Grassland that represents the great basin ecosystem.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's the Curlew Valley had a ranch on every 160 acres. When drought years of the late 20's and early 30's came, the lands now managed as the Curlew NG wouldn't support homesteads. Many fields were badly eroded. These fields were subsequently seeded with introduced plants – primarily crested wheatgrass and bulbous bluegrass. Sagebrush also re-established within these abandoned fields.

In the last few years large fires have burned on the Grassland; many people desire these areas to be reseeded with native plants.

Under an agreement with the Forest, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Aberdeen Plant Material Center will be establishing a plant test site on the Curlew NG. The project will provide an on-site opportunity to test and demonstrate the plant species that could be used on the Curlew NG and many areas with similar site conditions.

The project would establish approximately 200 total plots of 50 accessions replicated 4 times on a two acre area. Plots will be evaluated for a minimum of three years after establishment.



*Location of Plant Test Site*

**Year Awarded: 2009**

**Project completion: 2010 with evaluations of plants until 2014**

**Report number: 1 of 3**

**Expenditures:**

**FY09 funding \$46,500, expended: \$45,175 obligated under agreement with NRCS; \$900 for fencing material; \$425 dollars left unspent.**

**Partners/Contractors/Coop:  
USDA NRCS, Aberdeen PMC**

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