

# Sheep Mountain Grass-Forb Montane Restoration Project on the Lolo National Forest

## 2010 Accomplishments

This project was initiated in 2007 to test restoration methods on a montane forb grassland in western Montana. Portions of the grassland are infested with cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*). A one acre plot was selected as a pilot area for restoration.

When the project began in 2007 we calculated a 67% frequency of cheatgrass in the test plot. In the fall of 2007 the plot was treated with Plateau herbicide. In the fall of 2008, we calculated 0% cheatgrass frequency. In mid-June of 2009 and 2010, we measured a 28% and 31% frequency of cheatgrass, respectively (Figure 1).

Native plant seed was collected in this area in 2007 and 2009. Seed collected in 2007 was sown in the test plot after herbicide treatment.

We had plans to retreat the cheatgrass in the fall of 2010. This plan changed since the cheatgrass frequency changed little from the previous year and native grass and forb seedlings were present this year that hadn't been seen previously (Figure 2). We did not want to damage these seedlings so we decided to defer the herbicide treatment. Instead we sent the wildland seed to the Coeur d' Alene Nursery for growout and increase.

2010 funding was spent on monitoring costs and for native seed grow out and increase at the Nursery.



Figure 1. June 2010 plot monitoring



Figure 2. Arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*) and native grass seedlings observed in June, 2010

Year awarded: Initial award in 2007

Project completion: 2010

Report number: 3

Expenditures (through 10/2010): **NFN3 Funding**

- FY07 funding \$14,000, spent \$14,000; \$0 remaining
- FY09 funding \$5,750, spent \$5,750; \$0 remaining
- FY10 funding \$5,000, spent \$5,000; \$0 remaining
- **Total funding \$24,750, total spent \$24,750;**
- **\$0 total remaining**

Partners/contractors/coop: Missoula District Weed Coordinator, Region One Restoration Botanist, Coeur d' Alene Nursery.

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