

Beattie Gulch Vegetation Restoration Project on the Gallatin National Forest

2010 Accomplishments

The Gallatin National Forest and Yellowstone National Park 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 land on the Gallatin National Forest is targeted for restoration. Beattie Gulch is the second in a series of four restoration projects. Restoration is intended to reduce exotic plants and re-establish native vegetation, ultimately restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat. Yellowstone National Park is engaged in similar restoration work with these acquired lands within their boundaries.

Historically, these fields were tilled and irrigated as hayfields since the turn of the century. The Forest Service acquired these lands from the Royal Teton Ranch through the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in 1999.

Our first attempt at restoration in Cutler Meadows was only partially successful, so we are working on the Beattie and Cutler projects concurrently. The vegetation in both fields is mostly weedy annual species although native grasses, forbs, and shrubs are also present. Cutler Meadows has a high cover of cheatgrass which is largely absent in Beattie.

In 2010, wildlife-proof fence was constructed around two 25-acre parcels. We plowed and planted a barley cover crop on 50 acres. We also spot treated patches of cheatgrass and plan to broadcast native shrub and forb seed in those patches.

In 2009, USFS personnel collected local native seed and sent the seed to the Coeur d'Alene Nursery for grow-out and increase. Grasses collected for grow-out included bluebunch wheatgrass, Great Basin wild rye, needle and thread, and prairie junegrass.

Accomplishments in 2010 included:

- Fence construction
- Plowing
- Planting barley as cover crop (50 acres)
- Weed treatments and spot seeding



Beattie Gulch field near Gardiner , Montana

Year awarded: 2009

Project completion: 2012

Report number: 2 of 4

Expenditures (through 10/2010): **\$121,000 NFN3 funding** obligated to the Coeur d'Alene Nursery and private contractors

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

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

Contact persons & phone numbers:
Jodie Canfield (406) 587-6739
Tom Keck (406) 587-6714



Gallatin National Forest
PO BOX 130
Bozeman, MT 59771