

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Crested Wheatgrass Restoration to Native Sagebrush/grassland
Type of Project): Research
Project Discipline: Natural
Funding Agency: BLM
Other Partners/Cooperators:
Effective Dates: September 5, 2006 – September 30, 2011
Funding Amount: \$14,400.00 (FY06); \$25,000 (FY07); \$25,000 (FY08)
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Project Abstract: There are currently millions of acres of crested wheatgrass stands in the western U.S. which were planted extensively by government agencies to stabilize soils and provide forage for livestock. Unfortunately, since their establishment, it has been recognized that the loss of native grass and shrublands have not been beneficial to wildlife. Crested wheatgrass stands receive very little use by sage-grouse since the habitat components of sagebrush and native grasses of forbs are usually missing. Land managers with a number of agencies and universities have been trying to devise methods which can restore sage-grouse habitat by converting crested wheatgrass stands to native grasses and shrubs. There have not been any consistent, cost effective methods developed to date, which can restore sage-grouse habitat by converting crested wheatgrass stands to native grasses and shrubs. The objective of this study is to test the use of grazing, herbicides, fire and tillage in order to reduce crested wheatgrass dominance and establish native plants.
Outcomes with completion dates (reports, publications, workshops, videos, etc.):
Keywords: Crested Wheatgrass, Native grasses and shrubs, restoration