

Project Completion Report for OWEB Grant 25-22-009-20090

Final Completion Summary

This project is located in the Service Creek-John Day River watershed in Wheeler County, Oregon near the headwaters of Muleshoe Creek. The completion of this project involves the mechanical machinery cut removal of 32 acres of upland juniper by a feller/buncher, and areas with ground disturbance were reseeded to gain an establishment of the native bunch grasses and prevent competition with annual grasses. A spring was developed to NRCS specifications to provide offsite stockwater and to help distribute grazing patterns. Water was captured using an excavator and then piped to a 1300 gallon aluminum trough. Overflow from the trough was then piped into a nearby drainage.

Background

This project is located in the Service Creek-John Day River Watershed near the headwaters of Muleshoe Creek. With the reduction of farming and historic fire suppression surrounding old pastures had become invaded with encroaching juniper, causing an impact on the watershed. The project site had good stands of bunch grass communities, however, risked being compromised after ground disturbance with the competition of annual grasses if left untreated. The project also had an undeveloped spring, with great potential for production, but was being trampled by livestock and wildlife. With the lack of developed springs along pastures the cattle congregate to lower sections of the fields and bypass the good production of grass stands along steeper slopes.

Work Done

This project treated 32 acres of encroaching juniper by mechanical machinery cut and pile. Juniper slash piles will be burned after left lay long enough to ensure a clean burn. Areas with ground disturbance from the mechanical machinery were reseeded to establish bunch grass communities and prevent competition with annual grasses. A spring was developed to NRCS specifications to provide offsite stockwater and help distribute grazing patterns. Water was captured by an excavator and piped to a 1300 gallon trough. Overflow was piped to a nearby drainage.

Public Awareness or Education

Project overview is listed on the Wheeler SWCD website under projects: wheelerswcd.org
Project will be included in the displays presented at Wheeler SWCDs annual meeting.

Lessons Learned

Lessons learned throughout this project is that it is important to have formal, binding contracts in place with contractors and engineers to ensure obligations are met within the specified grant timeline for applications/agreements.

Aquatic Habitat

Wheeler SWCD has read the Oregon Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Guide and all project components are within compliance.

Juniper Treatment/Removal

With the completion of this project the landowner will maintain the juniper removal by cutting and lopping juniper as needed. Juniper will be monitored for 15 years with maintenance occurring once a year.

Funding Sources

Source	Identifier	Cash	InKind Type	Inkind
OWEB	25-22-009-20090	\$12,816.00		\$0.00
Prairie Ranch		\$0.00	Labor	\$3,288.00
Wheeler SWCD		\$0.00	Labor	\$655.00

Totals

OWEB Amount	Non OWEB Cash	Inkind Total	Non OWEB Amount	OWEB Match	Total Project Cost
\$12,816.00	\$0.00	\$3,943.00	\$3,943.00	31.0%	\$16,759.00

Uploaded Files

Image Type	File Name	Description
Final Payment Checklist	Final Payment Checklist, 25-22-009.pdf	Final Payment Request Checklist
Photo Point	IMG_5967_2.jpg	View of trough placement
Photo Point	IMG_5970_2.jpg	Overview of spring that was developed with exclusion fencing
Photo Point	P3071193.JPG	Overview of juniper treated by mechanical machinery as in-kind
Photo Point	P3071191.JPG	View of juniper area that was treated with mechanical machinery
Photo Point	P3300045.JPG	Overview of juniper to be treated as in-kind
Photo Point	P3300031.JPG	View of trough placement
Photo Point	P3300028.JPG	Overview of spring to be developed
Photo Point	P3300041.JPG	View of juniper treatment area
First Payment Checklist	First Payment Checklist, 25-22-009.pdf	First Payment Request Checklist