

Non-lethal Pilot and Restoration Project at M Creek

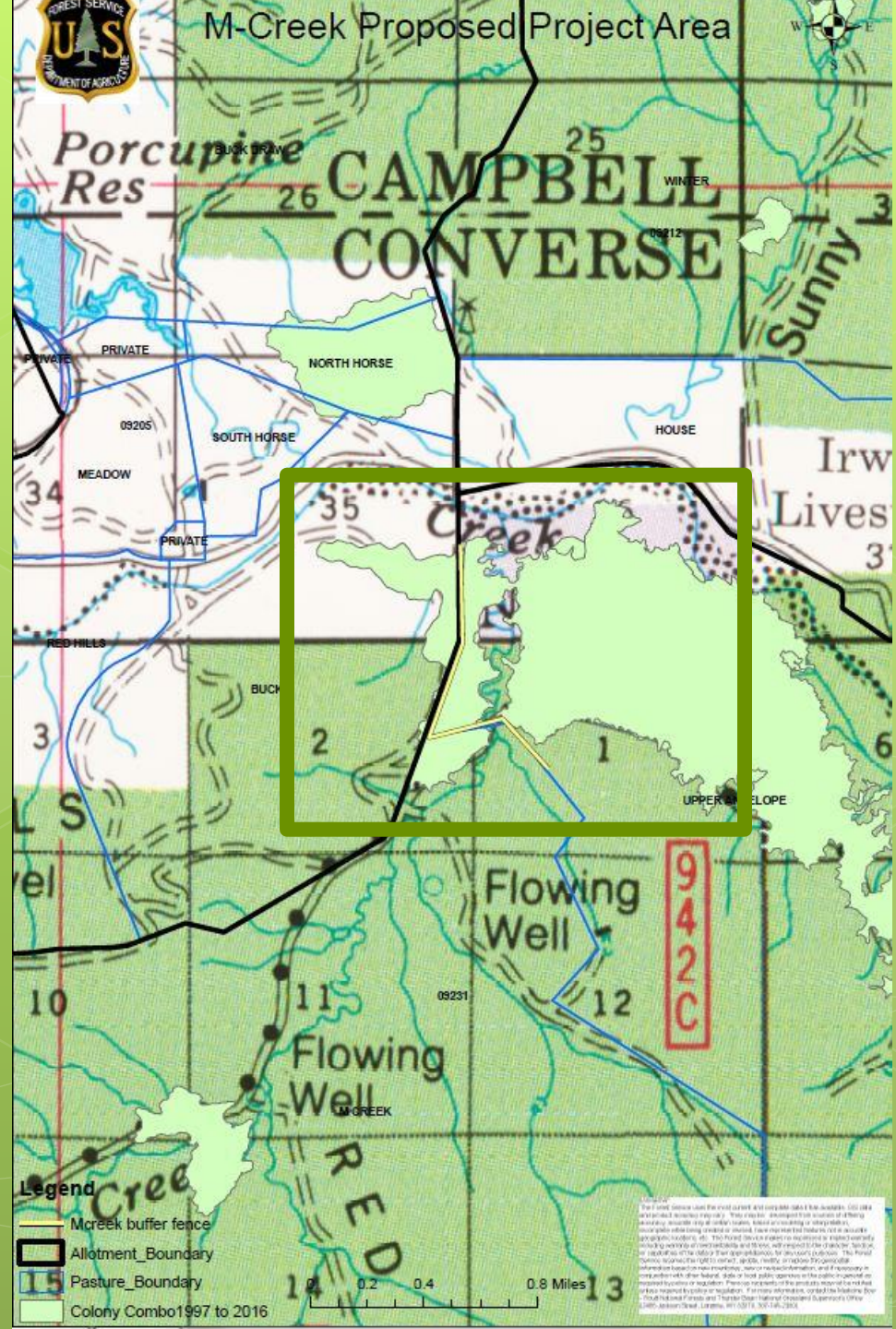
Partners: US Forest Service, Prairie Dog Coalition/ HSUS, Converse County Weed & Pest, Defenders of Wildlife, Thunder Basin Grassland Prairie Ecosystem Assoc., & World Wildlife Fund



Non-lethal Pilot and Restoration at M Creek

- Prairie dog removal from passive relocation, plague & lethal if needed on the S/W side of the barrier
- Burrow removal or filling & flattening w/ local construction aggregate to discourage recolonization
- Seed planting in late winter/ early spring
- Snow fence installation (approx 1 mi.)
- Experiment - reseeding on livestock & wildlife side of the barrier to encourage pdogs to stay on pdog side
- Annual monitoring & evaluation
- Estimated \$5-10,000 plus regular maintenance in labor provided by the Prairie Dog Coalition/ HSUS
- \$15,000 for seed mix provided by Defenders
- Support from WWF

- Snow fence will occur along existing fence line already in place
- Good spot for a natural barrier because the natural topography creates a smaller, more manageable area to work with (as opposed to open range)
- Keeps pdogs from migrating into the Sage Grouse Core Area

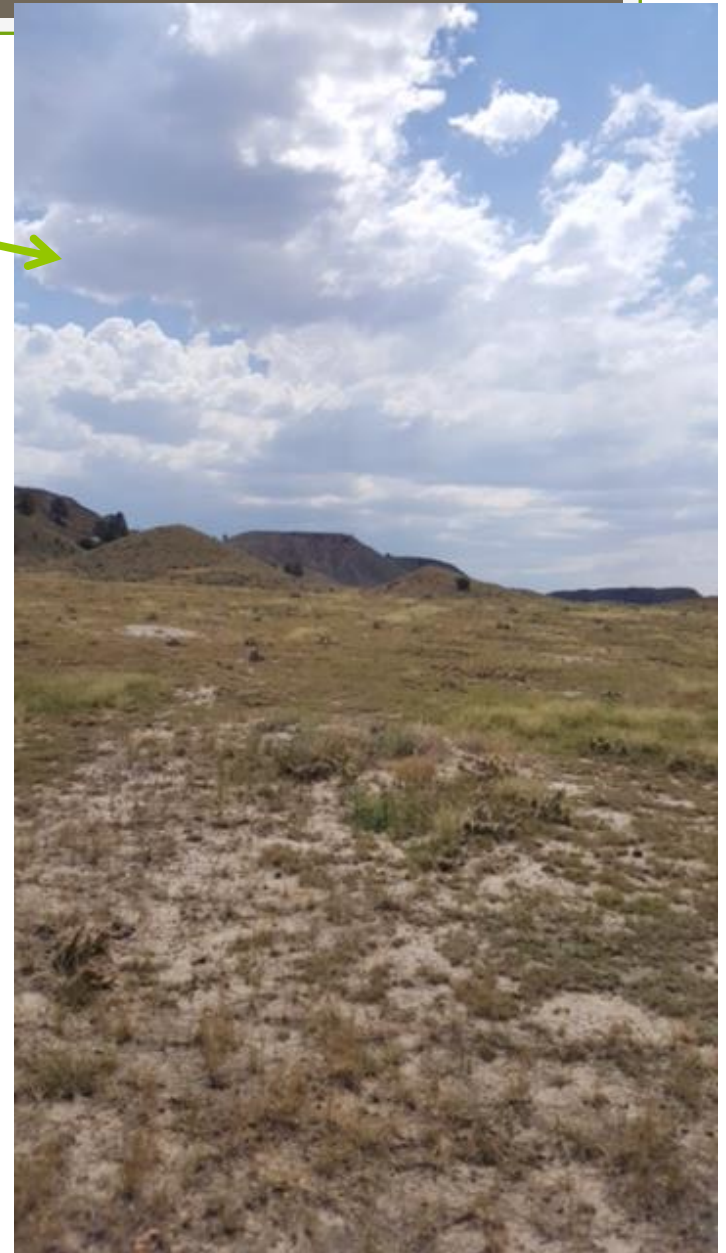


Reseed Area



Snow Fence Example

Encourages moisture to be retained to aid seed plantings.



Vegetative component

Seed mix= turf spreader + forbs with height on the barrier

forb/grass mix tentative based upon availability

Common name	Latin	Forb/Grass	use
Maximillian Sunflower	<i>Heliantus maximilliani</i>	forb	barrier
Rocky Mountain Beeplant	<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	forb	barrier
Thick Spike Wheatgrass	<i>Elymous lanceolatus</i> spp <i>lanceolatus</i>	grass	barrier
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	grass	barrier
Rubber rabbitbrush	<i>Chrysothamus nauseosus</i>	shrub	barrier
Green Rabbitbrush	<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>	shrub	barrier
Blue flax	<i>Linum lewissii</i>	forb	colony
Prairie Wine Cups	<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	forb	colony
Hairy Goldenaster	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>	forb	colony
Penstemon - One-Sided	<i>Penstemon secundiflorus</i>	forb	colony
Plains Verbena	<i>Glandularia bipinnatifida</i>	forb	colony
Prairie Aster	<i>Machaeranthera tanacetifolia</i>	forb	colony
Prairie coneflower	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	forb	colony
Purple Prairie Clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	forb	colony
Scarlet globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	forb	colony
Stiff Green Thread	<i>Thelesperma filifolium</i>	forb	colony
Blue Grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	grass	colony
Buffalo	<i>Buchloë dactyloides</i>	grass	colony
Six-weeks fescue	<i>Vulpia octoflora</i>	grass	colony
Dwarf Rabbitbrush			

East Pasture Pilot

Cactus removal

- Remove cactus to allow more forage to grow for livestock & wildlife
- CC W&P will apply Tordon in strips to remove prickly pear cactus in the fall of 2017
- Return of forage will be monitored and a strategic seed mix will be added if needed

Measurements for success:

- Annual monitoring: 2018, 2019 & 2020 in early June
 - Vegetative height
 - Vegetative species diversity
 - Presence/ absence of active prairie dog burrows on non-prairie dog side of barrier at M Creek
 - If not seeing the perennial grasses & forbs we're looking for by 2019, we'll plant additional seeds for 2019