

**Pine Creek/Sulphurbeds Allotment  
WILDCAT CREEK #2 (WC2)  
Riparian Browse Assessment**

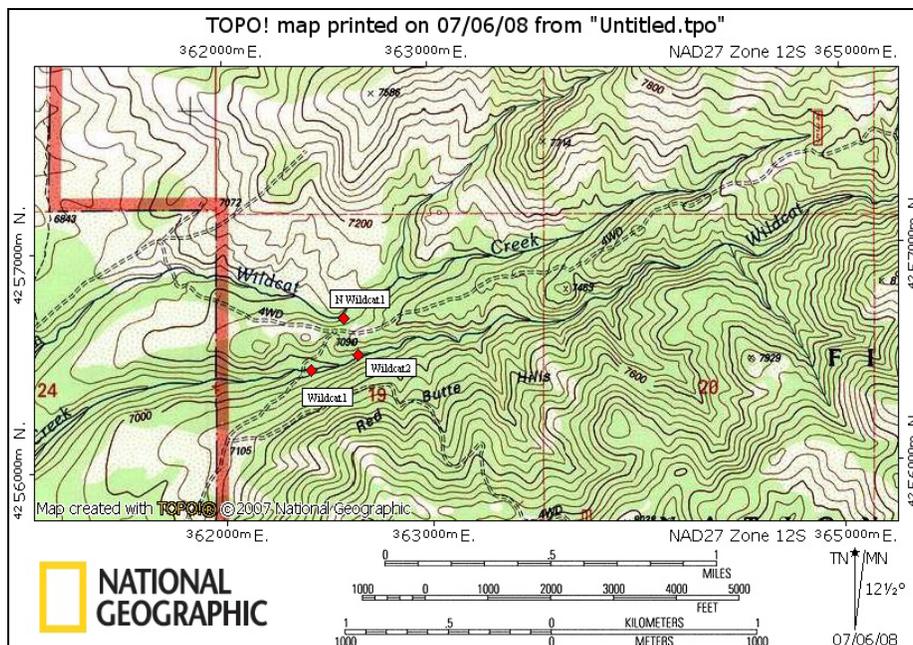
(1) May 9, 2008

(2) October 19, 2009

Wildcat Creek #2 is located in a confined narrowleaf cottonwood/Gambel's oak/bigleaf maple reach with steep (60 degree) slopes, about 0.15 miles upstream of Wildcat Creek #1. The transect crosses the stream twice (at 27', 35') as it bends. The average riparian width is 16'. Old, large downed cottonwood provide large woody debris for stream stability and diversity (Figs. 1 and 2), but these cottonwood are not being replaced by mature cottonwood.

(1: May 9, 2008) Six cottonwood trees >6' average 18" DBH, with no recruitment trees, while all other cottonwood trees are less than 5' tall. By May 9, 28.6% of the tallest leaders and 45.5% of the subleaders were browsed.

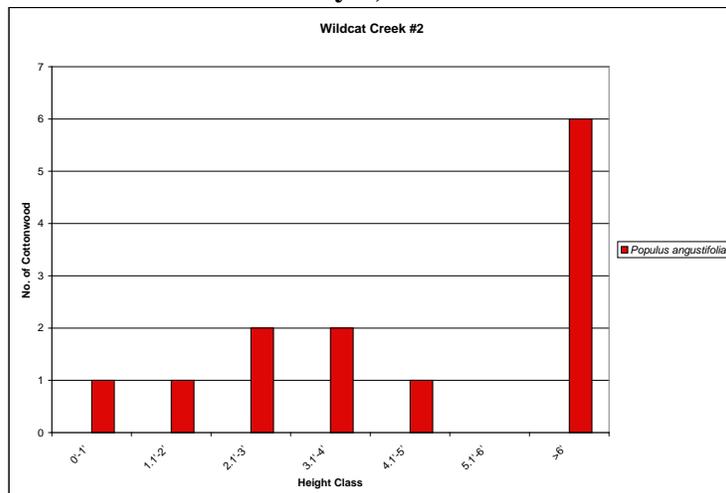
(2: October 19, 2009) Wildcat Pasture was rested in 2009, but there was a minor amount of fresh cattle sign along Wildcat Creek (Fig. 3). Browse was low by Oct. 19: 11% of leaders and 16% of subleaders browsed, and the height distribution was much better than among those cottonwood <6' encountered in 2008. The number of subleaders within 6 vertical inches of the leader was comparatively low, e.g., 1.3 subleaders in the 4.1'-5' height class. Because cottonwood are scattered among conifer, we included one 5' tall cottonwood that was 5' from transect (all others w/in 3'). Some of the bushy cottonwood had gained height without browsing (e.g., Fig. 4).



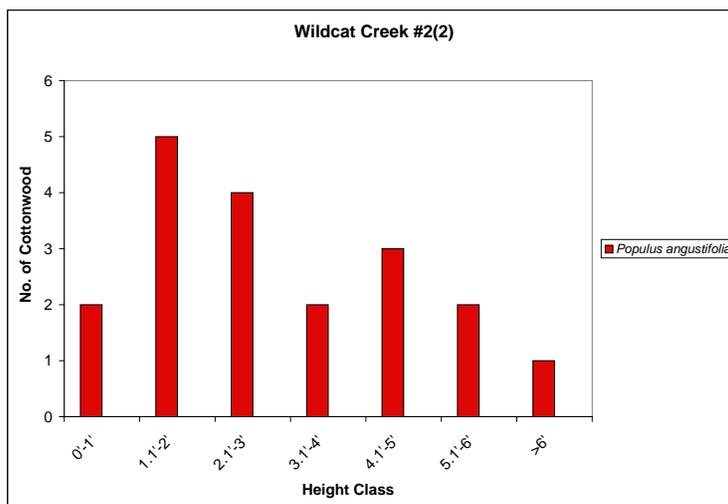
<b>WILDCAT CREEK #1 (WC1)</b>	<b>May 9, 2008</b> Hoskisson/O'Brien <b>Oct 19, 2009</b> Hoskisson/O'Brien/Watters/Albano
Fishlake NF/Beaver RD	<b>Allotment:</b> Pine Creek/Sulphurbeds <b>Pasture:</b> Wildcat
<b>Stake:</b> 12N 0362665 E      4256502 N NAD CONUS 27 Downstream, west end; at upstream base of cottonwood below a large juniper	<b>Elevation:</b> 7,047'
<b>Aspect:</b> S-facing and N-facing	<b>Animal sign:</b> <b>2008:</b> Cougar track; cow patties near stream <b>2009:</b> Some fresh sign of cattle
<b>Ave. Width Riparian Area:</b> 16'	
<b>Dominant vegetation:</b> Narrowleaf cottonwood, Rocky Mtn juniper, bigtooth maple, Wood's rose, Oregon grape, and Oregon boxleaf <i>Paxistima myrsinites</i> . One limber pine tree.	
<b>Other notes:</b> This transect is in Reach #A24-3 in the 2003 Level II Riparian Inventory (Petty 2003); Petty rated the forage trend as "down". The draft Beaver R. Watershed Management Plan (Beaver County 1999) notes: "Flow from Indian Creek and Wildcat Creek average 6.5 cfs."	

## Height Distribution

May 9, 2008



October 19, 2009



## Browse

May 9, 2008

<b>Wildcat Creek #2</b> <b>Percent Browsed or Dead Leaders</b> 7 <i>Populus angustifolia</i> <6'  6 <i>Populus angustifolia</i> >6': Ave. DBH 18.4"	
	<i>Populus angustifolia</i>
% tall leaders browsed	14.3
% tall leaders browsed or dead	28.6
% subleaders browsed	45.5
% subleaders browsed or dead	60.6

October 19, 2009

<b>Wildcat Creek #2(2)</b> <b>Percent Browsed or Dead Leaders</b> 18 <i>Populus angustifolia</i> <6'  1 <i>Populus angustifolia</i> >6': DBH 0.5"	
	<i>Populus angustifolia</i>
% tall leaders browsed	11.1
% tall leaders browsed or dead	11.1
% subleaders browsed	15.8
% subleaders browsed or dead	15.8

## Number of Leaders by Height Class

October 19, 2009

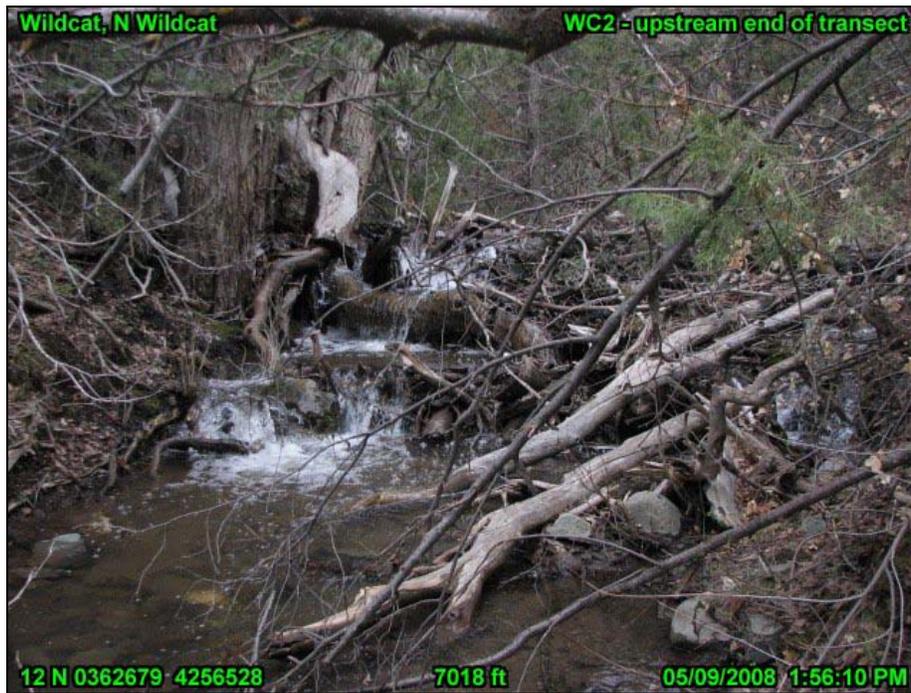
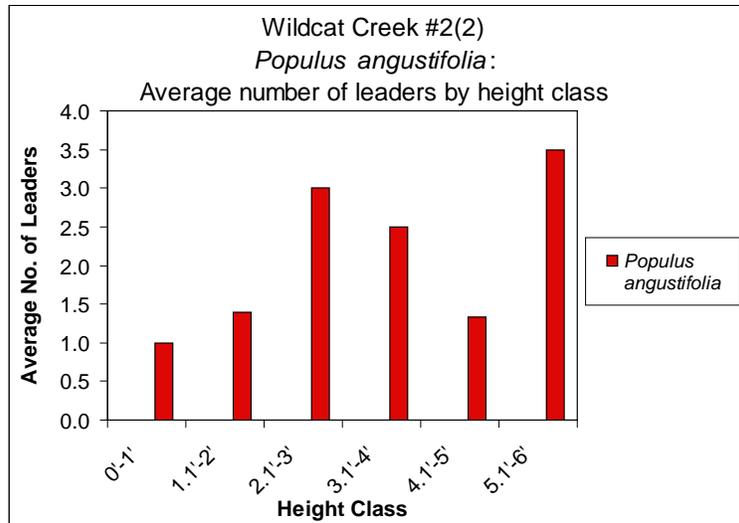


Fig. 1. Upstream end of transect; note cottonwood debris in Wildcat Creek.



Fig. 2. Large, old, downed cottonwood capturing sediment and providing creek diversity.



Fig. 3 (10/19/09) Though this was a rest year for this pasture, some sign of recent cattle was present.



Fig. 4 (10/19/09) During rest from cattle this year, this bushy willow grew to 5', with unbrowsed leader/subleaders.

## References

- Beaver County. 1999 [Brcrmp7 5/12/98, 7/20/99 gj]. Draft *Beaver River Watershed Coordinated Resource Management Plan*.
- Petty, Jeff. 2003. Little North Creek Area Level II Riparian Inventory. Shell Valley Consulting: Shell, WY.