

Partnership Project Success Story

State:	Colorado	FS Funds Used:	\$ 4,600.00
National Forest/Grassland:	White River National Forest Blanco Ranger District	Other Funds Used:	\$
		Partners:	\$ 8,000.00
Project Name:	Blanco Burn Block/Weed Treatments #7	Total Project Cost:	\$ 12,600.00

Project Purpose/Objectives: The purpose of 'Blanco Burn Block/Weed Treatments #7' was to implement prescribed burning in mountain shrub habitat and to treat noxious weed infestations in and adjacent to areas treated with prescribed burning in the past. Included in this project were pre-burn fire line treatment with brush clearing on burn area boundaries and black-lining. Also included was monitoring on pre- and post- treatment areas to quantify results of prescribed burning and determine if objectives are being met. Objectives of this project include: 1) Set back succession in over-mature mountain shrub habitat to improve foraging opportunities for both elk and mule deer, and 2) Treat noxious weeds to control infestations, document and map areas of noxious weeds, avoid noxious weeds in planned burn areas to prevent further spread.

Work Performed: Upland noxious weed treatments included a mix of Telar/Tordon/Overdrive, aimed mostly at toadflax, houndstouge and some Canada thistle. Small pockets of sulphur cinquefoil were also treated. Riparian areas infested with Canada thistle were treated with Redeem, a riparian-approved herbicide. The Forest-wide Gambel Oak Monitoring Protocol was developed in 2005 and implemented on approximately 40 pre- and post- treatment acres during 2006. Fire lines were established using sawyers and blacklining within the northwest burn block to aid in control of prescribed burning and to prevent spread to private lands.

Benefits: Noxious weeds were treated on 300 acres within or adjacent to prescribed burn units. Fire lines were cleared and/or black-lined in the northwest burn block to prepare the area for prescribed burning. The Gambel Oak Monitoring Protocol was implemented in the northwest burn block along with establishment of photo points. The mountain shrub acres that were scheduled to burn were not completed due to lack of a spring burn 'window' and inability to secure a 'helitorch' and associated crew. The prescribed burn will be accomplished in 2007 using hand-ignition crews that are more readily available when the burning window is realized. Habitat Partnership Program dollars will go towards the prescribed burning planned for spring 2007.

Additional Information

Partners: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Habitat Partnership Program (CDOW)

