

Partnership Project Success Story

State:	Colorado	FS Funds Used:	\$ 3,000
National Forest/Grassland:	White River National Forest Rifle District	Other Funds Used:	\$
		Partners:	\$3,000
Project Name:	Wildlife Interp Signs	Total Project Cost:	\$ 6,000

Project Purpose/Objectives: Develop and place interpretive sign near wildlife habitat that has been enhanced for elk and other wildlife by the use of prescribed fire and weed treatments.

Work Performed: Design and construct sign during winter months and place sign in summer months. This is a cooperative project with Range, Encana Gas & Oil Company, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the National Turkey Federation.

Benefits: One new (2- Panel) wildlife interpretive sign

Additional Information

Partners: Range, Encana Gas & Oil Company, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the National Turkey Federation

STRIVING TO PROTECT NATIVE VEGETATION

Noxious Weeds in Mamm Creek

What is a noxious weed?

A weed defined by law as being undesirable, troublesome, and difficult to control.



What does a noxious weed do?

Noxious weeds furiously out compete native vegetation in an area. Over time these infestations offset natural balances of ecosystems by changing plant composition and nutrient cycles.



Musk thistle



Thistles

- Bull thistle
- Canada thistle
- Musk thistle
- Plumless thistle
- Scotch thistle



What do noxious weeds look like?

Noxious weeds are easy to spot, once one knows what to look for. Most common noxious weeds in this part of the country have several different species under the same genus.

Knapweeds

- Diffuse knapweed
- Pussan knapweed
- Spotted knapweed



How does one treat noxious weeds?

There are four categories of weed control: biological, mechanical, cultural, and chemical. These categories allow for mixing between the categories for better control of noxious weeds.



Who treats noxious weeds?

The U.S. Forest Service works cooperatively with the BLM, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, private landowners, and other organizations from around the area.



Colorado County Trails



By the Snake River Land

Figure 1: Weed Management panel

ENHANCING HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

Gambel Oak



Why is it important to wildlife?



- Forms dense thickets connected by an underground root system (rhizomes), which exhibits tremendous sprouting ability when above ground portions of the shrub are removed.
- The brushy growth forms provides habitat for rabbits and rodents, while stems less than 15' provide excellent browse for elk and mule deer.
- Foliage, in young pole stands, provide ideal refuge for nesting birds and old stands provide cavity nesting sites for small mammals and birds.
- The mature growth form of gambel oak provides maximum acorn yield for squirrels, jays and black bear to help them through the winter.

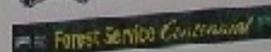


Prescribed Fire

How does fire help the area's habitat?



- Reduces fuel buildup within Gambel oak stands.
- Lowers the canopy height (if top kill is accomplished), makes browse more available, and increases grass and forb production in the understorey.
- Opens up stands to provide travel and feeding areas for a variety of wildlife species.
- Helps maintain a variety of age classes within the Gambel oak habitat types maximizing the number of species benefiting from the habitat.
- Increases sprouting of young Gambel oak stems.



Garfield County, Colorado

Figure 2: Wildlife Management panel