

**CASE STUDY #8: JOHNSON CREEK WHMA
Plateau® Application Post-Wildfire**

Presented By: Ryan Amundson, WGFD Habitat Extension Biologist



August 2001

JOHNSON CREEK WILDLIFE HABITAT MGMT AREA



IT IS THE SPORTSMAN'S RESPONSIBILITY
TO DETERMINE LAND BOUNDARIES
ACCESS AREA BOUNDARY WILL BE
MARKED WITH SIGNS

LITTERING IS PROHIBITED, PACK OUT
YOUR TRASH AND RESPECT PRIVATE
PROPERTY

OVERNIGHT CAMPING IN DESIGNATED
CAMPING AREA ONLY, 5 DAY LIMIT

NO OPEN FIRES



Federal Aid Project
funded by your purchase of
hunting equipment

WYOMING'S WILDLIFE
Worth the Watching







Early Fall 2001



Early Fall 2001





November 2001



Plateau® Trial Site Along Hwy 34

2 oz. / acre, 4 oz. / acre, 6 oz. / acre

***applied 11 / 19 / 01**

***photo taken 06 / 05 / 02**

2 oz. / acre

4 oz. / acre

6 oz. / acre



Cheatgrass dominated.....valuable wildlife habitat?

Untreated burned site adjacent to Plateau® trial location



**Western Wheatgrass response to Plateau® application (6 oz. / acre)
1st Spring post-application (06/05/02)**



Plateau® trial site (front to back) untreated, 2 oz., 4 oz., 6 oz. / acre



July 19, 2002



East-Facing Slope Post-Burn
Spring 2002





True Mountain Mahogany Re-Sprouting

June 2002

30%-50% re-sprouting on east & north-facing slopes



**Serviceberry Re-Sprout
June 2002**

PROJECT GOALS

- ELIMINATE OR REDUCE PRESENCE OF CHEATGRASS
- PROMOTE GROWTH OF NATIVE, PERENNIAL VEGETATION (HERBACEOUS / WOODY)
- RETURN 448 ACRES OF THE JOHNSON CREEK WHMA TO PRODUCTIVE, YEAR-ROUND HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE
- BE PROACTIVE IN MANAGEMENT OF COMMISSION-OWNED LANDS

How does the



get the job done?

- UTILIZE BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY
- PARTNER WITH GROUPS / ORGANIZATIONS WITH HIGH INTEREST IN WYOMING'S WILDLIFE

WORK PLAN

- ESTABLISH VEGETATIVE TRANSECTS ON AREAS “PRE-TREATMENT”, TO MONITOR RESPONSE
- APPLY PLATEAU® HERBICIDE TO BURNED ACRES ON NON-BLM LANDS
- MONITOR VEGETATIVE RESPONSE BY FOLLOW-UP VISITS TO TRANSECT SITES IN YEARS 1 – 5, 10,



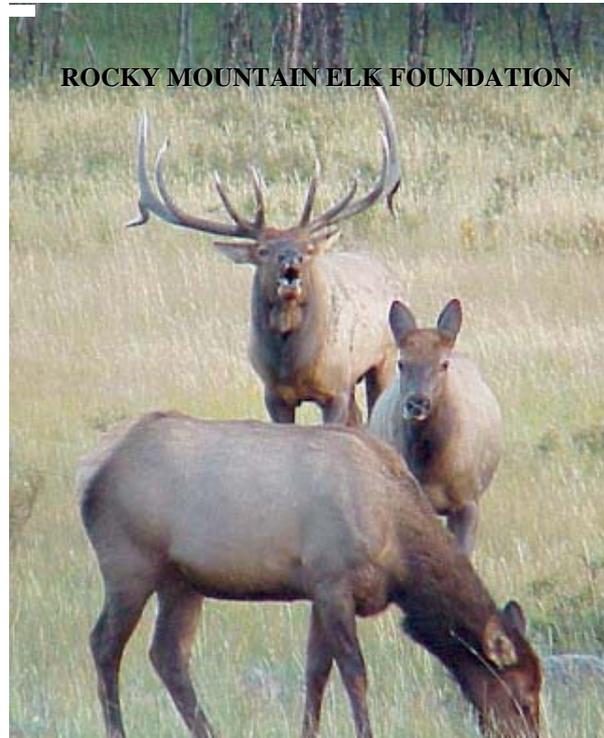
Establishment of permanent transects on south-facing slopes along Hwy 34
Assistance provided by Heather Burdick and Kate Crossthwaite (BLM – Rawlins)

FNAWS



Funding:

WGFD \$10,167
RMEF \$ 2,783
FNAWS \$ 4,000



THE “RECIPE”

- Plateau®: 8 oz. / acre
- Surfactant: Methylated Vegetable-Based Seed Oil, Soy-Stik®: 1 qt. / acre
- Water: 5 gallons / acre





**Aerial application by Bighorn Airways of Sheridan, WY
Bell Jet Ranger Helicopter @ \$580 / hour
450 acres treated in 5 hours flight time**

8. 28. 2002

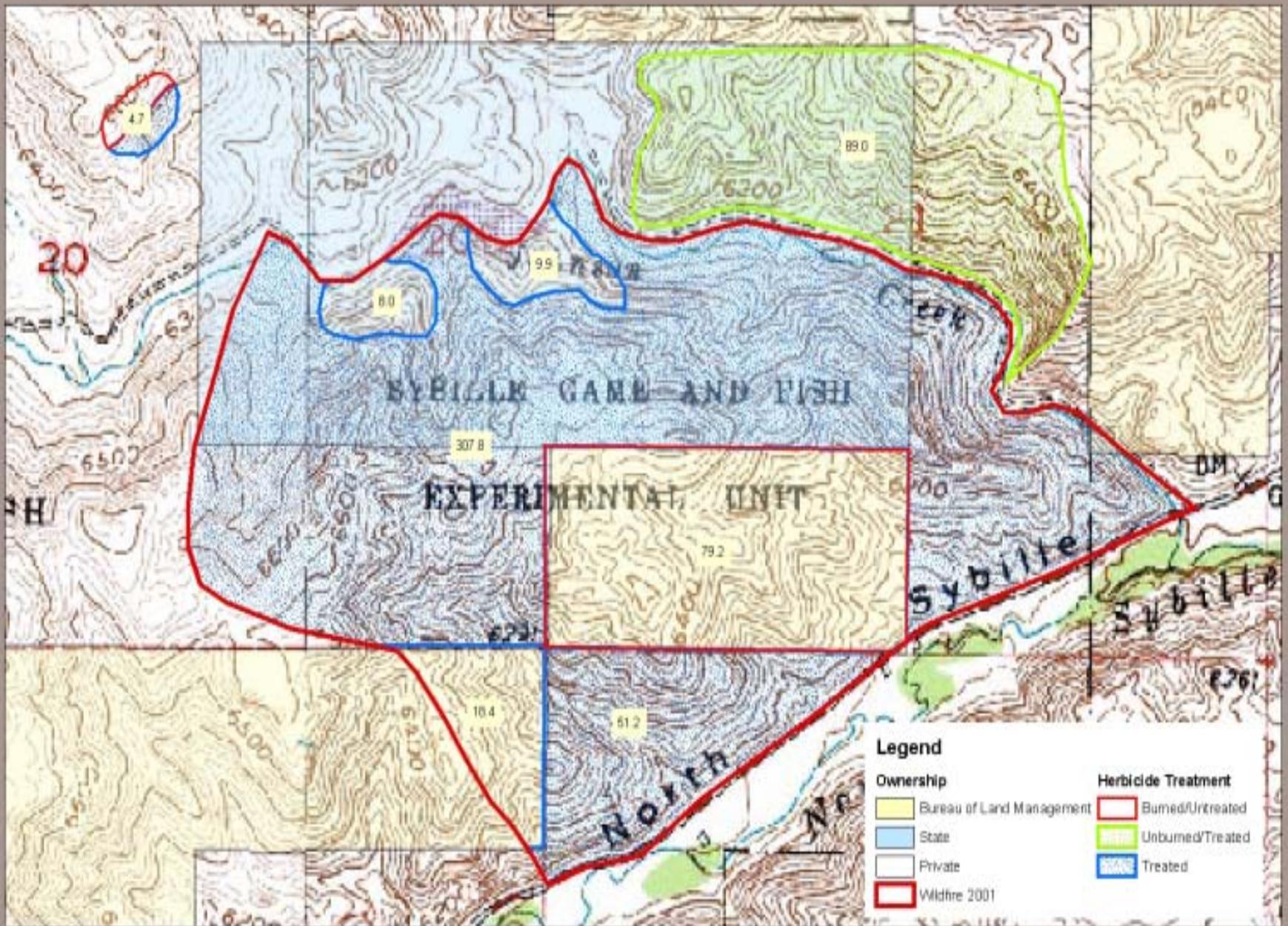




Helicopter application chosen due to steep terrain (30% slopes) and time efficiency







COSTS

- HERBICIDE: \$7,496.10
- SURFACTANT: \$1,190.80
- AERIAL APPLICATION: \$8,264.00

*includes transport, mixing truck, crew, per diem

TOTAL \$16,950.90

COST PER ACRE TREATED: \$ 37.44



THE FUTURE OF THE JOHNSON CREEK WHMA

- MONITOR VEGETATIVE RESPONSE OF TREATED AND UNTREATED ACREAGE ON THE JOHNSON CREEK WHMA
- WITH SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT, CONTINUE TO PROVIDE YEAR-ROUND HABITAT FOR BIG GAME AND OTHER WILDLIFE
- POTENTIAL TO UTILIZE THE UNIT AS A “GRASS BANK”, IMPROVING THE WGFD’S AND OTHER LAND MANAGER’S ABILITIES TO PROVIDE PROPER REST, PRE- AND POST-TREATMENT TO OTHER PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS IN SE WYOMING

SPECIAL THANKS



BASF – Joe Vollmer, Scott Votaw
BLM – Rawlins Field Office
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Wyoming Game and Fish Department – Laramie Region, HQ and Commission, Sybille
Research Center Personnel