

IMPROVING AND RESTORING SEASONAL HABITATS FOR NATIVE UNGULATES:

THE JACKSON INTERAGENCY HABITAT INITIATIVE (JIHI) MODEL FOR INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

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Stewardship Workshop – Jackson, Wy.

Oct. 2-3, 2007



What is the Jackson Interagency Habitat Initiative (JIHI)?

Begun in 2001, JIHI is a collaborative effort between local land and wildlife management agencies to assemble and evaluate data and identify opportunities to enhance the health of ecosystems and wildlife in and surrounding Jackson Hole.













What is the Goal of JIHI?

Maximize effectiveness of native winter and transitional range for ungulates and a diversity of species indigenous to the region through identification and implementation of habitat enhancement opportunities

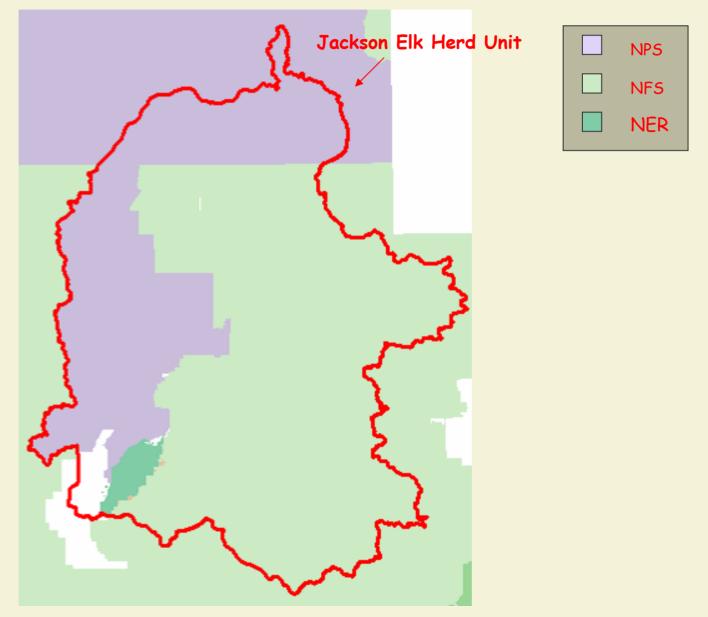














Steps to Progress:

Step 1 – assemble a common GIS database from the extensive research and monitoring efforts already ongoing.

Step 2 – use the data layers to identify places where opportunities existed.

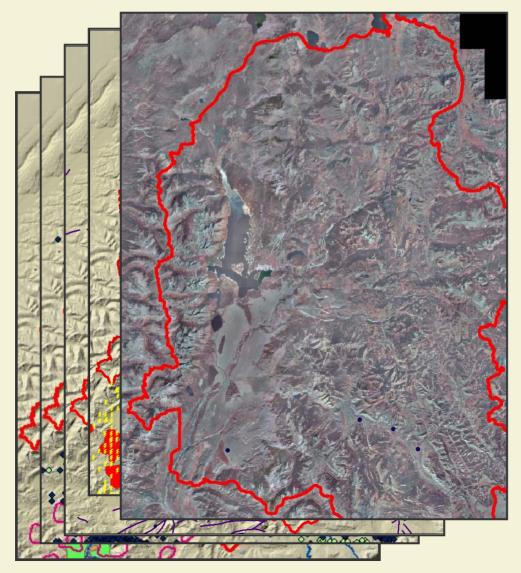
Step 3 – identify specific vegetation enhancement/restoration opportunities.





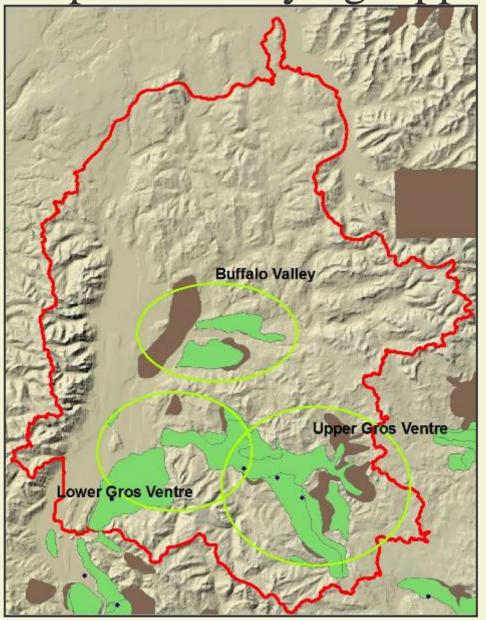


Step 1: GIS Components:



- •Big Game Seasonal Ranges
- Telemetry locations
- •Migration routes
- •Fire History
- Vegetation layers





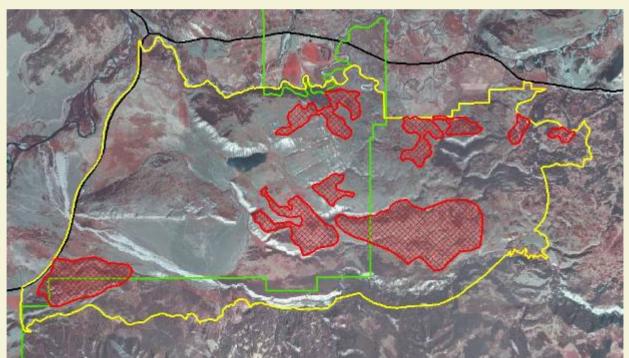
3 Main Focus Areas:

- Buffalo Valley
- •Lower Gros Ventre
- Upper Gros Ventre



Buffalo Valley:

- •Diamond L RX Burn: Completed 2005!
- •Eynon Ridge RX Burn: Completed 2006!
- Other BTNF and GTNP sites identified





Buffalo Valley: Diamond L RX Burn completed 2005



1300 Acres
Aspen Objectives





Buffalo Valley: Eynon Ridge RX Burn completed 2006

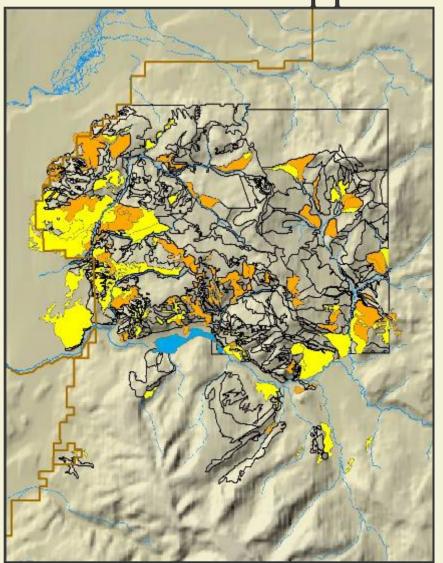


806 acres

Aspen Objectives







Lower GV: Vegetation Mapping Over 65,000 Acres Summer 2005

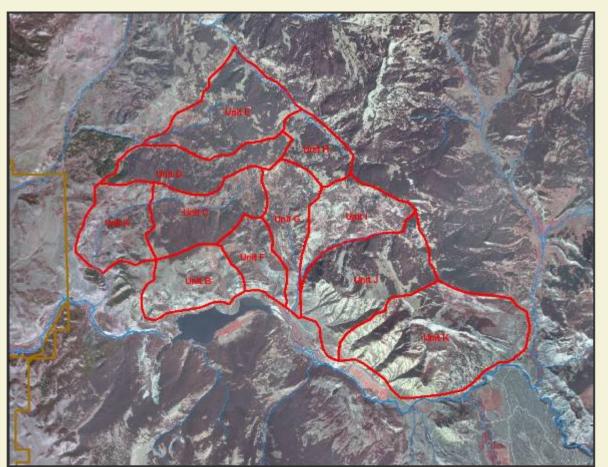


Monitoring: Adaptive Management

- •Vegetation Objectives decided upon by land management agency, collaborative process
- •Aspen stands high priority due to loss of Aspen across the West and significance for wildlife use
- •Vegetation monitoring completed with Interagency Fire Effects Crew before and after implementation
- •Future project implementation based on data collected: learn and improve on future projects



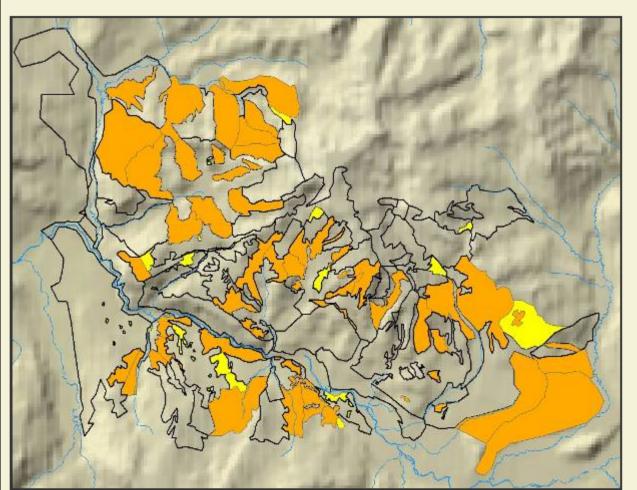
Lower GV: Over 17,000 Acres of Burn Units on BTNF



Implementation of 2 Burn Units anticipated for 2007



Upper GV: Nearly 30,000 acres Vegetation Mapped



Summer 2006



How You can Help:

- •Support Federal agencies implementing Vegetation management projects
- Assist in the field with vegetation monitoring

•Funding for implementation or monitoring





Partners:

- •Bridger Teton National Forest
- •Grand Teton National Park
- National Elk Refuge, USFWS
- Wyoming Game and Fish
- •Teton Science School
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- •Foundation for N. American Wild Sheep
- •Governor's Big Game License Coalition





Partner Grant Contributions to Lower Gros Ventre Habitat Enhancement JIHI Project:	
Wyoming Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep	\$18,000
Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition	\$18,300
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$13,000
Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust	\$50,000 (requested)
Total Partner Grant Contributions:	\$99,300



Partner "In-kind" Contributions:	
USFWS National Elk Refuge	\$15,000 for habitat typing (NFMA) through cost-challenge agreement
Wyoming Game and Fish	\$18,000 for wildlife surveys, habitat intern supervision, GIS support, and objective development, and project design
Grand Teton NP	\$2,850 for GIS support, objective development, and project design
USFWS National Elk Refuge	\$1,980 for GIS support, objective development, and project design
Teton Science School	\$800 for administration of field technician, monitoring
Teton Interagency Fire Effects Monitoring Crew	\$1,750 for project monitoring
Total Partner "In-kind" Contribution:	\$30,755
TOTAL PARTNER CONTRIBUTION:	\$130,055



JIHI is not the only game in town -

- WGFD Habitat Biologists and Brucellosis-Feedground-Habitat personnel assist with all aspects of habitat improvement projects across the B-T Forest – 8 WGFD employees actively involved
- Currently 10+ collaborative projects
- WGFD currently investing approx. \$100,000 in project M&O.



Thanks!

Questions?

