

## WYPFW SG Projects

### 1.) Sage Steppe Project

"Our opportunity to work with PFW has been a great experience. While working to enhance our rangelands and ranching operation, we have also been able to improve and protect crucial habitat resources for Greater Sage-grouse and other wildlife species. PFW has been an important resource in our efforts to continue ranching operations. Their expertise has help identify ways to benefit our ranch and natural resources. "

Todd Heward  
7E Ranch

View of 7E Ranch - managed grazing



The 7E Ranch livestock grazing and habitat project is characteristic of many PFW range improvement projects in the west. Habitat projects of this nature often occupy large landscapes that consist of mixed private and public ownership, require a lengthy planning window and manpower commitment, focus on development of an overall grazing management strategy with construction of necessary infrastructure components (i.e. water developments, fence) to facilitate management plan and follow-up monitoring to determine if management strategy meets the goals established for resource condition and livestock. PFW staff have worked with the 7E Ranch to

develop a grazing plan and infrastructure for improved management and operational flexibility on 13,631 acres of sagebrush habitat identified by the Wyoming Governor's Executive Order 2011-5 (SGEO) as Greater Sage Grouse Core Area. In addition, existing non-essential fence lines were identified for removal or marking to prevent collision losses as well as facilitate big game migration.

## 2.) Sage Steppe Project

"As landowners, we try to be responsible stewards of the land, keeping in mind all of the wildlife that calls our ranch home. We appreciate that PFW recognizes ranchers' efforts and offers assistance to help landowners maintain habitat for the benefit of both agriculture and wildlife."

Burt and Kay Lynn Palm

Hi-Allen Ranch



Implementing grazing management recommendations developed through a collaborative partnership, the Hi-Allen Ranch strategy focused on improving the local plant community for long-term sustainability of the agricultural operation and the wildlife that depends upon the land. Utilizing common management tools of fence and water, the Ranch improved operational flexibility by increasing their ability to rotate livestock and allow periodic rest/deferment as identified in the management plan on 1,585 acres of "Greater Sage Grouse Core Area".

### 3.) Riparian/Wet Meadow Project

Located within State of Wyoming's sage grouse "core population area" and a component of a larger 38,281 acre grazing system to improve sage steppe habitat, the Albert Creek project recently reconnected 9,000 feet of stream channel, elevating the local water table, re-wetting adjacent floodplain and associated wet meadow habitat for sage grouse brood rearing. Wyoming PFW staff funded, designed, permitted and provided construction oversight to complete the project in 2015.



Albert Creek Floodplain (Before)

Albert Creek Floodplain (After)



Albert Creek Channel (Before)

Albert Creek Channel (After)

### 4.) Aspen/Sage Steppe Project

Aspen habitats in the West are some of the most valuable habitats in terms of wildlife abundance and diversity and have also suffered substantial declines in coverage over the last century. A common reason for aspen decline is a lack of forest over-story disturbance which then allows more shade-tolerant conifers to begin taking over the aspen stand and reduce root suckering by the aspen clone. PFW recently completed a 220 acre aspen/conifer clear-cut or selective conifer removal in aspen habitat to benefit a variety of migratory songbirds. Greater sage-grouse also use the area as late brood-rearing habitat, benefiting as the treatment removes perch trees for predators and increases understory production.





**Treatment area (Before)**



**Clear-cut treatment (After)**



**Sage-grouse chick in treatment area**