

Case Study: Old Man on His Back

**Native Prairie Restoration/Reclamation Workshop
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Old Man on His Back (OMB)



- 13,100 acre ranch near Eastend, SK
- Acquired by NCC from Peter and Sharon Butala in 1996
 - Historically managed through summer livestock grazing and greenfeed on the cropland
- NCC manages the ranch with a conservation herd of Plains Bison (NCC owned; year-round) and livestock (from local patrons; June to October)
- Provides habitat for Species at Risk including: Sprague's Pipit, Burrowing Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Ferruginous Hawk, Sage Grouse (historic) and Swift Fox

Old Man on His Back (OMB)

- Ranch is located in:

- Dry Mixed-grass Prairie Ecoregion; Brown Soil Zone
- 220 mm annual precipitation
- Dominated by Loamy, Solonetzic soils
- 1,223 acres of cultivated cropland converted to native species in the 2000's



Purpose of Revegetation Project

1. To provide a high quality summer forage resource of native grasses and legumes for grazing livestock in southwest Saskatchewan
2. To use a diverse blend of native species to enhance biodiversity





Revegetation Process

- Lands were greenfeed cropped and/or chem-fallowed for 2-3 years
 - incrop, broad-leaf weed control
 - Pre-seed and post harvest weed control– glyphosate
- Species sown with Truax press drill or Air-drill
- Post seeding broad-leaf weed control, when required



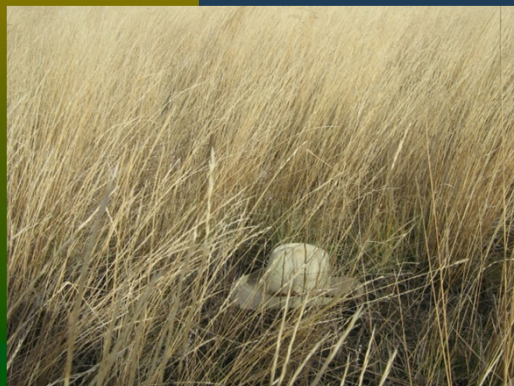
Revegetation Process

Species	Type / Variety
Western Wheatgrass	WR Poole
Northern Wheatgrass	Polar
Awnead Wheatgrass	Sprig
Slender Wheatgrass	Adanac
Green Needlegrass	Mallard
Needle and Thread	Sharp-tail
Canada Wildrye	Mandan
June Grass	Common
Blue Grama	Bad River
Purple Prairie Clover	Common / Innoculated



Revegetation Process

Field Number	Acres	Planting Date
S1	164	June 2004
S2	333	November 2004 – wild harvest June 2006 - reseeded
S3	160	November 2004
S4	171	South Half – December 2001 North Half – May 2002
S6	150	May 2005
H2	72	May 2005
H4	173	June 2004



Ongoing Management



Field Number	Acres	Usage
S1	164	Grazing Rested (2010); 66 AUMs – 0.40 AUM/ac (2009)
S2	333	Grazing 120 AUMs – 0.36 AUM/ac (2010) 129 AUMs – 0.39 AUM/ac (2009)
S3	160	Hay for Plains Bison
S4	171	Grazing 90 AUMs – 0.53 AUM/ac (2010) 68 AUMs – 0.40 AUM/ac (2009)
S6	150	Grazing Home-fields grazing for Plains Bison in winter/spring
H2	72	Grazing Home-fields grazing for Plains Bison in winter/spring
H4	173	Grazing Home-fields grazing for Plains Bison in winter/spring

Ongoing Management and Monitoring



- Determine level of “wild seed” establishment in S2 field
- Determine extent of naturalization of other species from surrounding native prairie
- Continue research with Wildlife Conservation Society – comparing grassland bird use in native seeded vs native prairie
- Manage invasive species
- Track carrying capacity of fields over time



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