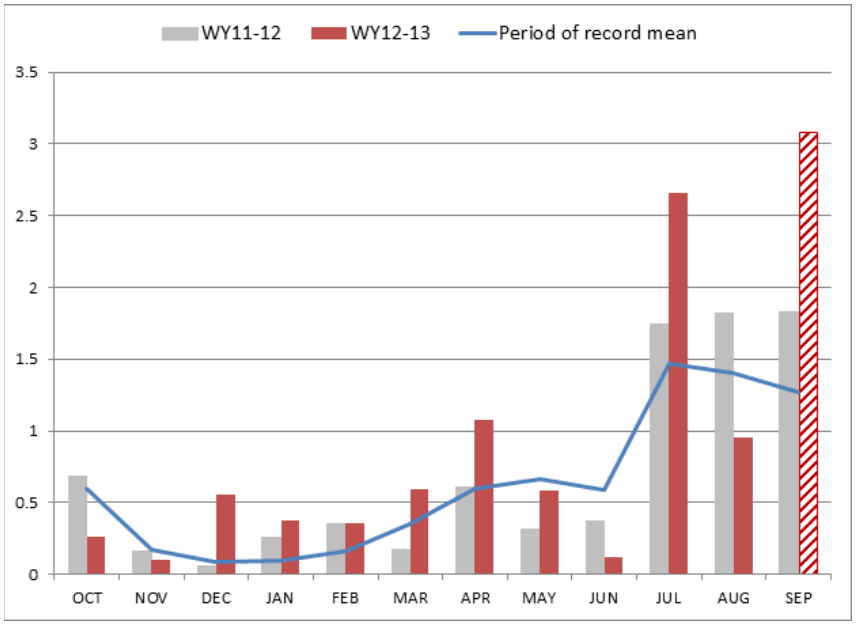
Wet Meadow Restoration: Changes Over One Year

2012 vs 2013

Wolf Creek, Gunnison Basin

Monthly Precipitation (inches), 2012-2013

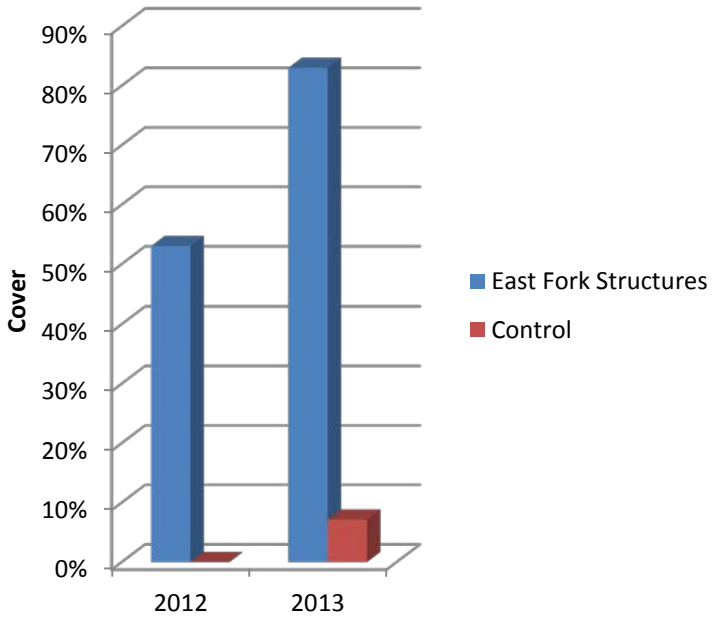


- Data are from Huntsman weather station
- In general, 2012 was considered a drier year than 2013
- Our control transects were established to detect changes associated with precipitation vs. restoration results

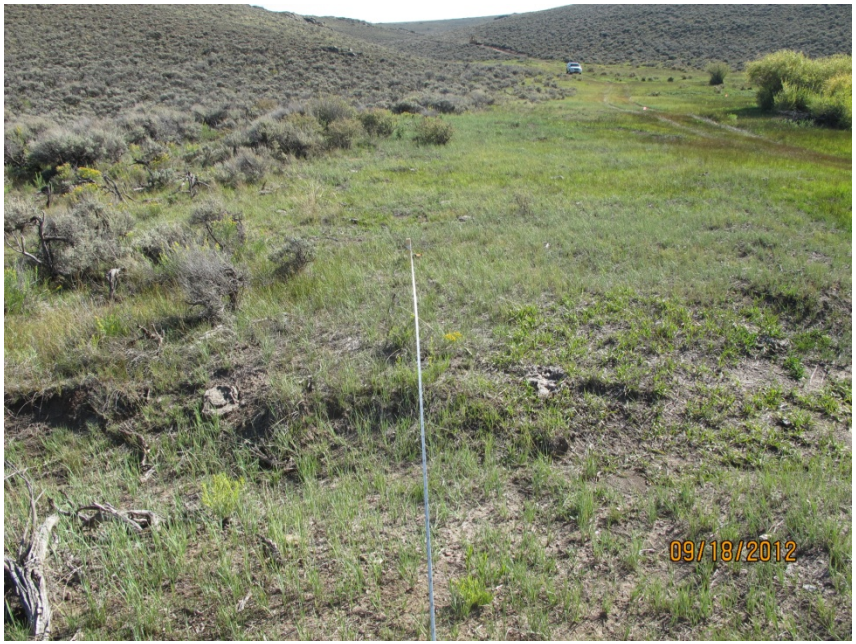
Wetland Species Positively Responded to Structures

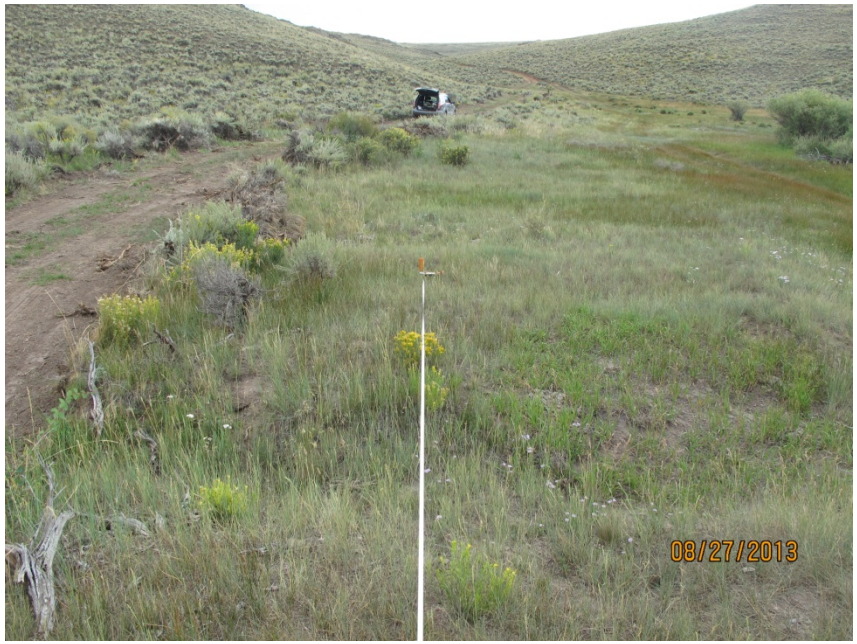
- The canopy cover of wetland species significantly increased ($P \leq 0.05$) between 2012 and 2013 within the restored areas.
- The canopy cover slightly increased in the control (not restored).

East Fork Wetland Species



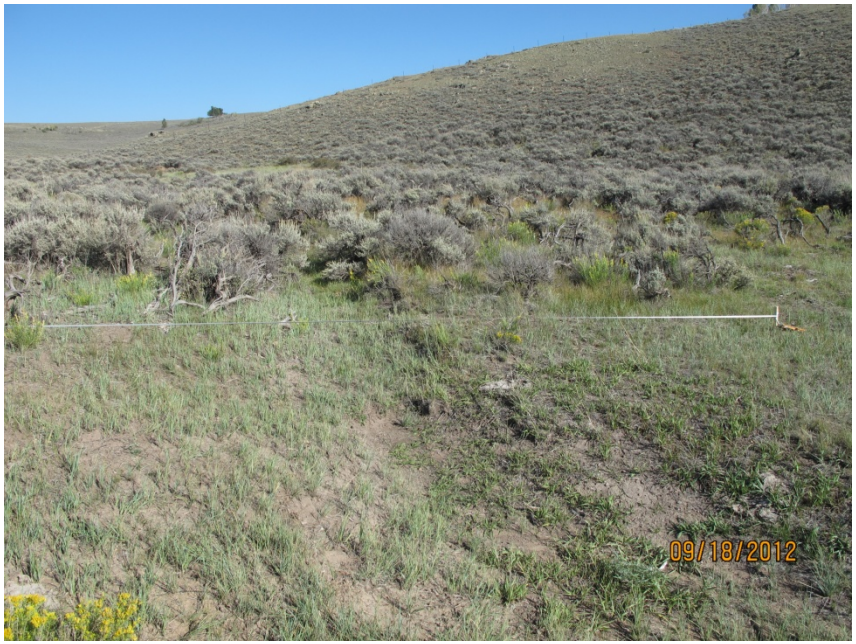
Control: no structures built





Note: the new two track visible in the 2013 photo is part of the overall restoration plan. The original two-track bisected a wet meadow and the new two-track is now on the edge of the wet meadow. Transect photo: C01_0m

Control



We can see an increase in cover and height of western wheat grass in the 2013 repeat photo, due to increased precipitation.

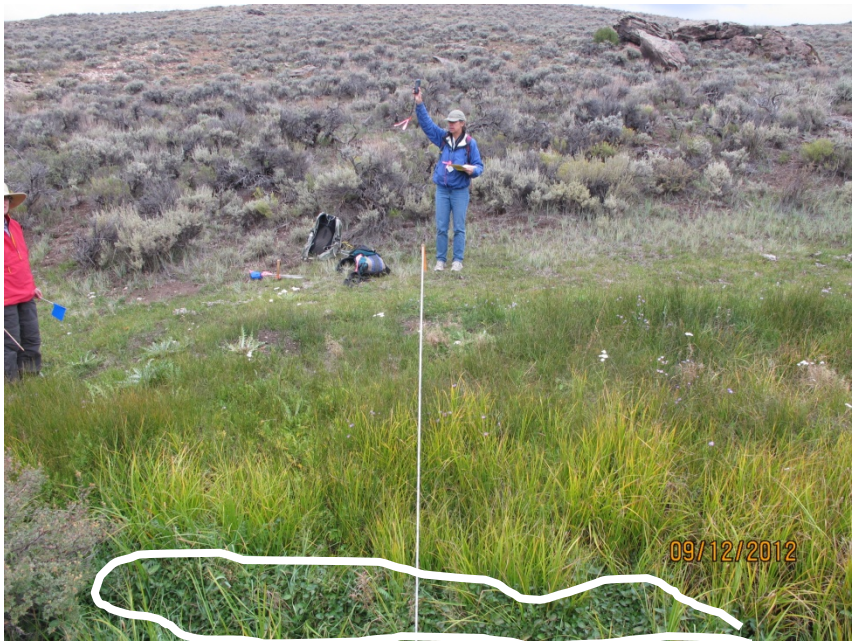
One Rock Dam on Ephemeral Stream, GWT29_0m

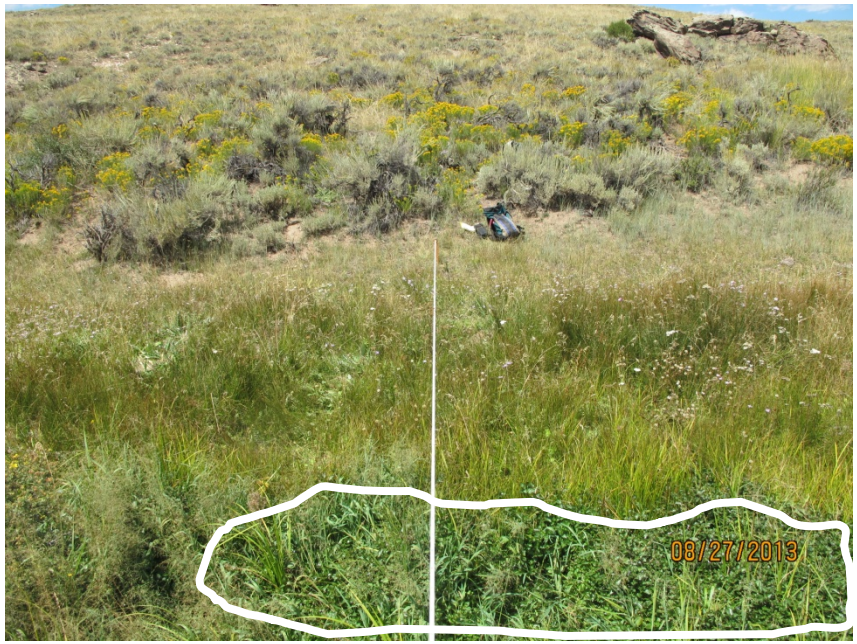
By 2013, sediments partially or completely covered many of the rocks. (Use the hammer to help locate the 2012 rocks and compare to the 2013 photo.)

Rock Run Down
GWT38_0m

The white polygon was dominated by *Carex utriculata* in 2012 (left photo) and by *Veronica* in 2013 (right photo); *Veronica* only occurs in running water hence more water in 2013; **wetland obligates went from 35% in 2012 to 50% in 2013.**

Rock Run Down
GWT38_end





The white polygon denotes the Veronica wormskadii area in 2012 (left) vs 2013 (right). At this site, **wetland obligates went from 35% in 2012 to 50% in 2013.**

Media Luna 43

October 2012

August 2013

The media luna was positioned to spread the water across the meadow. By 2013 the water had significantly spread across the meadow into areas that had once been saturated prior to the stream downcutting.

Media Luna, 43

October 2012

August 2013

This media luna spread the water across the meadow within one year of it's placement. Species composition will probably change within a year or two.

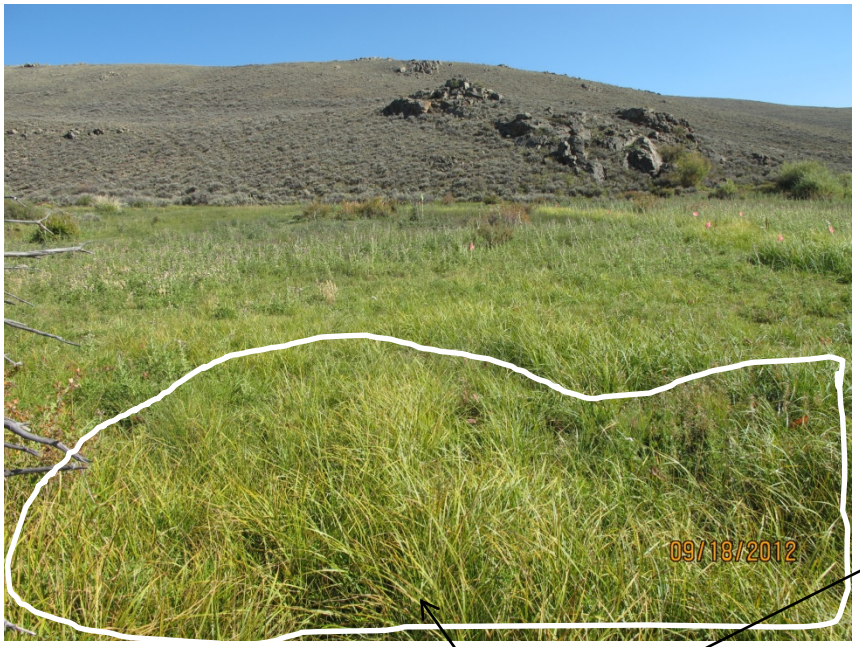
Media Luna, 45

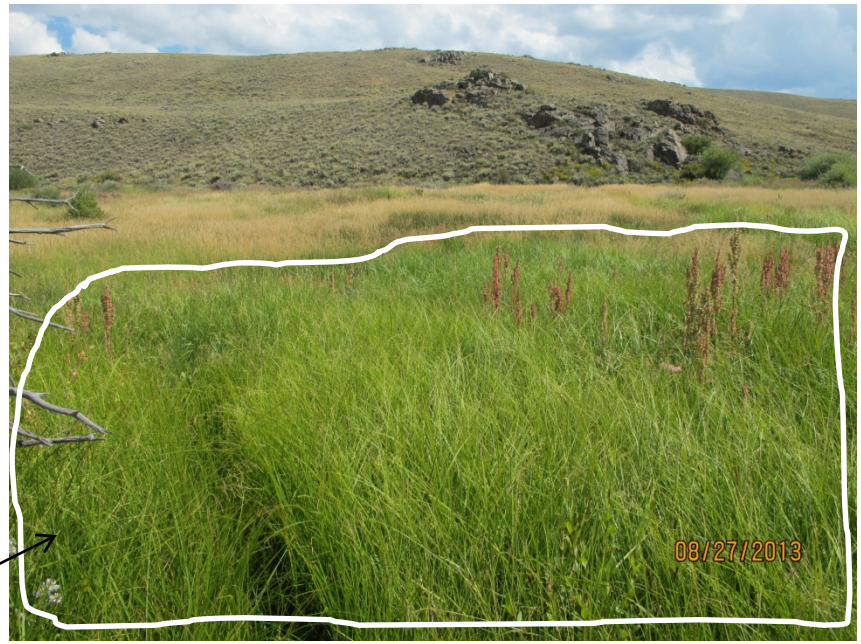
October 2012

August 2013

We documented remarkable changes in the cover and height of the vegetation after one year of building the media luna. Species composition will most likely change within the next year or two.

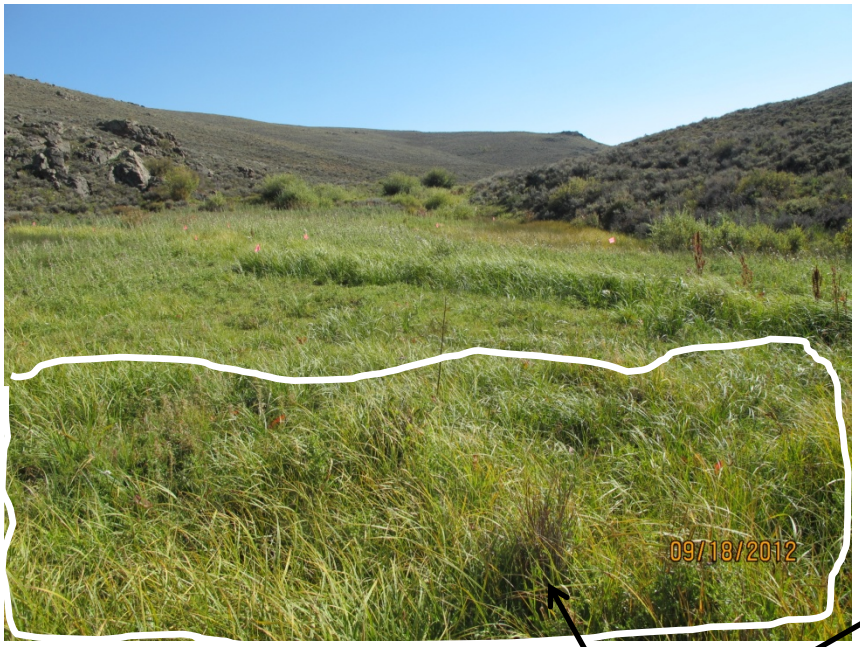
Downstream of two media lunas, GWT46PP_a





Carex utriculata, an obligate wetland species, expanded into new areas after the media luna was established.

Downstream of two media lunas, GWT46PP_b



Carex utriculata, an obligate wetland species, expanded in area after the media luna was established.

Downstream of two media lunas, GWT46PP_c

In 2012 (left photo) the white polygon was dominated by more xeric species and by 2013, one year after media lunas were established, the area was dominated by *Carex uticulata*, an obligate wetland plant