

1995 Trout Creek Off-Center Advanced Test Site Forage Production  
Loren St. John, Assistant Manager

In 1995, the Twin Falls, ID field office offered to assist the PMC in collecting forage production data from the Trout Creek Off-Center test site located near Jackpot, NV. Because precipitation during the spring 1995 was above average, we thought that collection of forage production data would be beneficial to see how much forage could be produced during an above average precipitation year.

The Trout Creek site is located in northeastern Nevada, about 15 miles southeast of Jackpot. The site was planted in the fall of 1987 and includes a large display nursery and replicated plots of 4-wing saltbush; winterfat; bluebunch, thickspike, intermediate wheatgrasses; Russian, basin, and giant wildryes; and indian ricegrasses. The ecological site is loamy, 10 - 13 inch precipitation zone and the soils are silt loam. The native plant community is Wyoming sagebrush and bluebunch wheatgrass. The elevation is 5480 feet.

On July 27, 1995 Idaho NRCS employees Tom Blackbird, Ron Blake, Bob Josaitis and Idaho Department of State Lands employee Max Hall assisted Loren St. John, PMC Assistant Manager in clipping forage samples from the display nursery. We used 9.6 foot<sup>2</sup> circular frames to collect samples. Because many of the plots are declining in vigor and density we were only able to clip one frame from each display plot. Many of the plots no longer exist. The samples were brought back to the PMC and air-dried. The samples were weighed on August 15, 1995.

The following table shows the results from the samples collected in 1995. Also included is data collected from samples collected in 1992 from the replicated plots. The 1995 data is not statistically valid because the samples were collected from only one plot. Because the 1992 data is an average from four replicated plots, the comparison most likely is not valid.

In 1995, the highest producing plot was 'P-27' Siberian wheatgrass which produced 1750 pounds per acre. The next highest producing plot was 'Immigrant' forage kochia which produced 1500 pounds per acre. However, there was only one plant in the plot and without competition from surrounding plants this figure may be higher than what would actually be produced if other plants surrounded it. The third best producing plot was 'Sawki' Russian wildrye which produced 1450 pounds per acre. As a group, the Russian wildryes looked to be the best forage producers. 'Rosana' and 'Barton' western wheatgrass also produced high amounts of forage.

The thickspike and bluebunch wheatgrass accessions are fairly deteriorated and did not produce much forage. Most of these plots had only one or two plants. 'Parkway' was the best performing crested wheatgrass producing 800 pounds per acre.

Plots of "Pine Valley Ridge" black sage, 'Hobble Creek' sagebrush, 'Rincon' fourwing saltbush, 'Cedar' Palmer penstemon, 'Appar' Lewis flax, and 'Delar' small burnett had no plants. We took photographs of 'Wytana' fourwing saltbush and 'Pamirian' and 'Hatch' winterfat.

1995 Forage Production  
Trout Creek, NV Inter-center Strain Trial  
Display Plots

Accession	Common Name	Scientific name	1995 Forage	1992 Forage <sup>1/</sup>
			Production lbs / acre	Production lbs / acre
PI-478833	Indian ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	500	606
Paloma	Indian ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	-	440
Nezpar	Indian ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	-	0
Canbar	canby bluegrass	<i>Poa secunda</i>	100	NA
Sherman	big bluegrass	<i>Poa secunda</i>	500	NA
Covar	sheep fescue	<i>Festuca ovina</i>	50	NA
53788	smooth brome	<i>Bromus inermis</i>	100	NA
ND-691	mammoth wildrye	<i>Elymus giganteus</i>	-	360
PI-478832	mammoth wildrye	<i>Elymus giganteus</i>	450	0
Volga	mammoth wildrye	<i>Elymus giganteus</i>	-	0
Prairieland	Altai wildrye	<i>Leymus angustus</i>	400	835
Trailhead	Basin wildrye	<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	1000	495
Magnar	Basin wildrye	<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	850	450
Syn-A	Russian wildrye	<i>Psathyrostachys juncea</i>	550	850
Sawki	Russian wildrye	<i>Psathyrostachys juncea</i>	1450	993
Swift	Russian wildrye	<i>Psathyrostachys juncea</i>	950	807
Cabree	Russian wildrye	<i>Psathyrostachys juncea</i>	650	1180
Bozoisky	Russian wildrye	<i>Psathyrostachys juncea</i>	950	1195
Vinal	Russian wildrye	<i>Psathyrostachys juncea</i>	100	625
Paiute	orchardgrass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	-	0
Hycrest II	crested wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum X desertorum</i>	500	870
Hycrest	crested wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum X desertorum</i>	400	610
Ephraim	crested wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	250	590
Nordan	crested wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron desertorum</i>	200	705
Kirk	crested wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	50	675
Parkway	crested wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	800	785
Fairway	crested wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	600	845
P-27	Siberian wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron fragile ssp. sibiricum</i>	1750	720
Secar	Bluebunch wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp. spicata</i>	50	960
Whitmar	Bluebunch wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp. inermis</i>	50	647
Goldar	Bluebunch wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp. spicata</i>	50	905
Critana	thickspike wheatgrass	<i>Elymus lanceolatus ssp. lanceolatus</i>	50	850
Sodar	streambank wheatgrass	<i>Elymus lanceolatus ssp. lanceolatus</i>	150	745

1995 Forage Production (continued)  
Trout Creek, NV Inter-center Strain Trial  
Display Plots

Accession	Common Name	Scientific name	1995 Forage	1992 Forage <sup>1/</sup>
			Production lbs / acre	Production lbs / acre
Bannock	thickspike wheatgrass	<i>Elymus lanceolatus ssp. lanceolatus</i>	20	850
SL Hybrid	thickspike wheatgrass	<i>Elymus X Pseudoroegneria</i>	-	633
Mandan	intermediate wheatgrass	<i>Elytrigia intermedia</i>	-	NA
Topar	intermediate wheatgrass	<i>Elytrigia intermedia</i>	50	885
Greenleaf	intermediate wheatgrass	<i>Elytrigia intermedia</i>	50	NA
Luna	intermediate wheatgrass	<i>Elytrigia intermedia</i>	200	775
Greenar	intermediate wheatgrass	<i>Elytrigia intermedia</i>	-	880
Oahe	intermediate wheatgrass	<i>Elytrigia intermedia</i>	150	615
Amur	intermediate wheatgrass	<i>Elytrigia intermedia</i>	-	460
Rush	intermediate wheatgrass	<i>Elytrigia intermedia</i>	550	940
Tegmar	intermediate wheatgrass	<i>Elytrigia intermedia</i>	-	560
Alkar	tall wheatgrass	<i>Elytrigia elongata</i>	-	NA
Jose	tall wheatgrass	<i>Elytrigia elongata</i>	750	NA
Largo	tall wheatgrass	<i>Elytrigia elongata</i>	-	NA
Ariba	western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	350	NA
Rosana	western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	1000	NA
Barton	western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	1100	NA
Rodan	western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	500	NA
Primar	slender wheatgrass	<i>Elymus trachycaulis</i>	-	NA
San Luis	slender wheatgrass	<i>Elymus trachycaulis</i>	-	NA
Pryor	slender wheatgrass	<i>Elymus trachycaulis</i>	-	NA
Immigrant	forage kochia	<i>Kochia prostrata</i>	1500	NA

<sup>1/</sup> In 1992, the display plots were not clipped. The 1992 data presented in this table was collected from replicated plots in the inter-center strain trial and may or may not be a valid comparison. NA indicates accessions which were not planted in the replicated inter-center strain trial plots.

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