

VEGETATION CHANGE FOLLOWING
THE 2000 FIRE AT THREE SITES NEAR
THE TAYLOR RANCH

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THREE SITES IN THE BIG CREEK DRAINAGE NEAR THE TAYLOR RANCH, SHOWING VEGETATION CHANGE FROM 1988 TO SEPTEMBER 2000 TO JUNE 2001.

The first page shows a bluebunch wheatgrass/Sandberg bluegrass community that is not grazed much by native herbivores. Production on this site since 1988 has ranged from 16.7 to 102 grams per meter squared, averaging 60 g/m^2 . The lowest two production years were recorded the growing season after the fire, and in 1990, a year of extreme drought. The low production in 2001 is considered attributable to low moisture and the fire. The fire did not change composition of this community.

The second page shows a big sage/ needle-and -thread grass community in the same time intervals as the above community. This stand was dominated by mountain big sage prior to the fire. The fire removed all of the woody plants from the site which is now a grassland dominated, so far, by needle-and-thread grass and Junegrass.

The third page shows a Douglas fir-mountain mahogany community. The fire removed all woody plants from this site and the grass/forb understory is now dominant. The major plant in the June 2001 photograph is arrowleaf balsamroot.

The two communities dominated by woody plants prior to the fire should exhibit change over the next decades that the wheatgrass community won't show. Depending upon seed sources and weather patterns, woody plants should again reinvade the stands originally dominated by woody plants. Ungulate herbivory may influence the vegetation composition and its subsequent development over time. These woody communities will not be in an identifiable track towards their ultimate appearance for some period of years, but the initial working hypothesis is that they eventually would again become dominated by the species that dominated them prior to the fire, assuming no major climatic change in the region.

**CHANGES IN A BLUEBUNCH WHEATGRASS
STAND FOLLOWING THE 2000 FIRE. THIS
STAND IS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CLIFF
CREEK NEAR ITS CONFLUENCE WITH
BIG CREEK.**



WEST BENCH JUNE 1988



WEST BENCH SEPTEMBER 2000, ONE MONTH AFTER THE FIRE



WEST BENCH JUNE 2001, ONE GROWING SEASON LATER

**CHANGES IN A BIG SAGEBRUSH/
NEEDLEGRASS STAND FOLLOWING
THE 2000 FIRE. THIS STAND IS ON
THE SOUTH SIDE OF RUSH CREEK
NEAR ITS CONFLUENCE WITH
BIG CREEK.**



SAGE BENCH JUNE 1988



SAGE BENCH SEPTEMBER 2000, ONE MONTH AFTER THE FIRE



SAGE BENCH JUNE 2001, ONE GROWING SEASON LATER

**CHANGES IN A DOUGLAS FIR/
MOUNTAIN MAHOGANY
STAND FOLLOWING THE 2000
FIRE. THIS STAND FACES THE
AIR STRIP AT TAYLOR RANCH
FROM THE SOUTH SIDE.**



AIRPORT MOUNTAIN MAHOGANY SITE, JUNE 1988



**AIRPORT MAHOGANY, SEPTEMBER 2000, ONE MONTH AFTER
THE FIRE**



**AIRPORT MAHOGANY, JUNE 2001, ONE GROWING SEASON
LATER**