# Bear Creek Restoration Project

**Project No. 1992-026-01**

**Contract 47425**

**Completion Report**

**Period Covered: March 2011 – February 2012**

**Completed by: Joe Platz**

**United States Forest Service**

**Wallowa-Whitman National Forest**

**LaGrande Ranger District**

**LaGrande, OR**

**March 13, 2012**

## BEAR CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

The Bear Creek Restoration Project took place on 7 stream miles within the Starkey Experimental Forest. A railroad grade, which later became a stream bottom road, restricted the channel, reduced floodplain function, and interfered with natural hyperheic conditions. Overstory timber harvest and past grazing practices also influenced habitat conditions. Restoration objectives were included similar to the Upper Grande Ronde River and Fly Creek Restoration Projects.

Stream Side Road Before

Road Re-Contoured

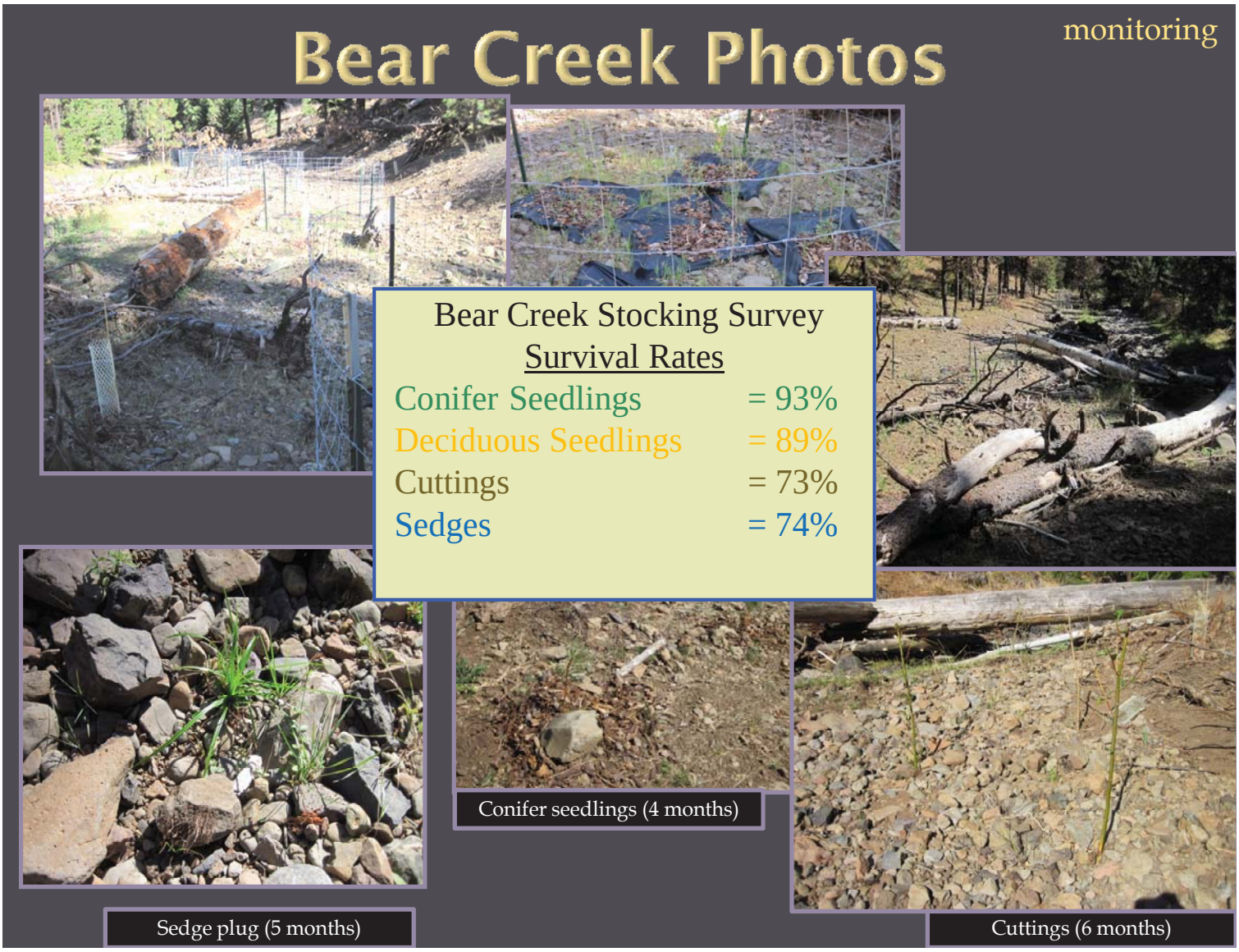
- Improve floodplain connectivity
- Improve water capture, storage, and safe release within the floodplain
- Increase quantity and quality of pools
- Increase fish cover and spawning gravel recruitment
- Improve habitat complexity, forage availability, and stream shading
- Increase the number of large and medium pieces of large woody structure in streams

### *Restoration Treatments*

- Placed large wood/boulder additions along 7 miles of stream channel
- Wood and boulders were placed by a helicopter and excavator
- Re-contoured and seeded 3 miles of stream bottom road to promote a connected, functioning floodplain
- Removed 5 culverts
- Constructed .4 mile of drift fence
- Constructed .5 mile of livestock trail out of the riparian zone
- Planted 5.5 miles of stream, of which included 6500 conifer seedlings, 3500 deciduous seedlings, and 4600 sedge plugs
- Constructed 400 small exclosures to protect plantings.

- **Total cost: $385,443** (BPA funds: $236,480; USFS: $148,963).

*Monitoring results included the following:*




| Bear Creek | Bear Creek |
|---|---|
| *Wood Count* | *Pool Count* |
| Pre Project - 75 pieces<br>Post Project - 125 pieces | Pre Project - 86 pools<br>Post Project - 205 pools |