Dry Cottonwood Creek Ranch
2009-2012:
Rewater, restore & reconnect.....
ecological and social opportunities in a contaminated landscape
Aquatic resource indicators in UCF landscape

Legend
- Native Trout Stronghold
- Irrigation Fish Barrier
- Riparian Restoration Projects
- Dewatered Stream
DCC RANCH--- taking stock 2009:
contaminated floodplain + old infrastructure
semi-arid uplands + intermittent stream
A central feature of DCCR: intermittent creek, flows in spring time

APRIL, 2012
RE-WATER: How do we re-water an intermittent stream? Why?
Are there fish in it?

This monitoring technique is not endorsed by MT FWP
Reconnecting "Dry" Cottonwood Creek, 2011: flowed to Clark Fork May-Aug
DCC Ranch Water Management:
*2009-2010: Study
*2011-12: Water lease
*2013-14: Design pumping system and lease?
Lower Dry Cottonwood riparian corridor was “non-functional” in 2009.
2009 Hansen Assessment results

Dry Cottonwood Creek Mean Riparian Assessment Scores
2002 & 2009

Valley
Canyon
North Fork

2002
2009
Comparison of Weed and Native Grass Productivity:
DCCR 2002 to 2010 (lbs/ac)

UPLAND HABITAT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Leafy Spurge</th>
<th>BB Wheatgrass</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>198</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CONCLUSION: Upland grassland recovering from massive weed infestation...but riparian still in tough shape...what to do?
Riparian electric fencing, revegetation, bring neighbors in....
Revegetation in riparian area
Legend

- Native Trout Stronghold
- Irrigation Fish Barrier
- Riparian Restoration Projects
- Dewatered Stream
- Flow Restoration Projects
REWATER, RESTORE TRIBUTARY habitat & RECONNECT it to the river, is a goal for Dry Cottonwood Creek Ranch
If we do our part....restoration will happen...

“Nature finds a way.”
NATIVE CUTTHROAT RETURN TO SBC!

Where next?

Photo: Matt Vincent, CFWEP
The Home Place:

Social and Economic Realities of Restoration on Private Land
The Dry Cottonwood Creek Ranch

Perspective
Values and Community
Consequences
New Game, New Hand, New Chips
Grassfed Beef
Irrigation/ Water Leasing
Conservation Income
Public Hunting
Mutually Beneficial Partnerships
Noxious Weed Control
Hazardous Materials Certification Courses
The Bottom Line:

• Dry Cottonwood is demonstrating that good land management can be ecologically sustainable and economically solvent at the same time.

• Our agricultural gross income is approximately $100,000

• Our non-agricultural gross income is approximately $75,000

- Public Hunting ($12,000)
- Water Leasing ($15,600)
- NRCS conservation programs ($28,000)
- NRCS Cost Share on Infrastructure Projects ($10,000)
- Grass Fed Beef Sales ($8,000)
LESSONS LEARNED:

1) Think big, think connectivity....this isn’t about projects, it’s about a landscape in recovery.

2) “Nature finds a way” ....all the parts have potential to recover....even the crappy little degraded ones...do your part and get out of the way.

3) Landowners are not the problem, they are the solution. They are creative in solving problems and they are the ultimate responsible parties for conservation: irrigation efficiency ...weed management.....and maintaining a healthy landscape
Thanks to the following:

Ted Beck, Wayne and Kathleen Hadley, Don Despain-USFS, Geoffrey Anderson-NRCS, Fred Staedler-DNRC, our partners, and the rest of our neighbors in the upper Clark Fork