

NE Oregon Wildlife Project “Precious Lands”

Managed by

The Nez Perce Tribe

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Outline

1. Project History
2. Project Goals
3. Limiting Factors
4. Project Accomplishments
5. Major Work Elements
6. Monitoring & Evaluation
7. Future Work



Project Area

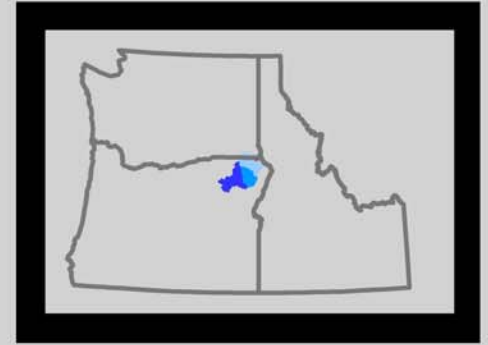
Washington
Oregon

Lower
Grand
Ronde

Upper
Grand
Ronde

Wallowa

Idaho





Year 1996

Year 1998



Year 1999



Year 2000



Year 2005



Year 2009

Precious Lands



Project Goals



- 1. Maintain or improve native plant communities**
- 2. Maintain or enhance fish & wildlife populations**
- 3. Provide public access for activities compatible with wildlife goals & provide for traditional gathering opportunities**
- 4. Foster productive interactive relationships with others**
- 5. Conduct monitoring & evaluation to measure responses to management activities**

Focal Habitats and Species on the Project

Riparian: Spotted frog, Great Blue Heron,
Yellow Warbler, Beaver

Ponderosa Pine: White-headed Woodpecker

Grasslands: Western Meadowlark

Canyon Shrublands: Bighorn Sheep

Quaking Aspen: None

Aquatic (Joseph Cr.): Snake River Steelhead



Project Response to Limiting Factors

Riparian: Loss of overstory, weeds, loss of shrub sub-canopy

Project Goals:

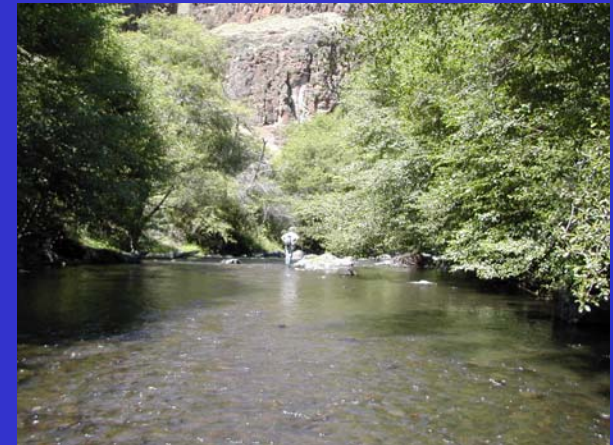
40-70% tree canopy cover
35-65% shrub canopy cover
≥ 3.5 snags 6-10" dbh per acre

Management Activities:

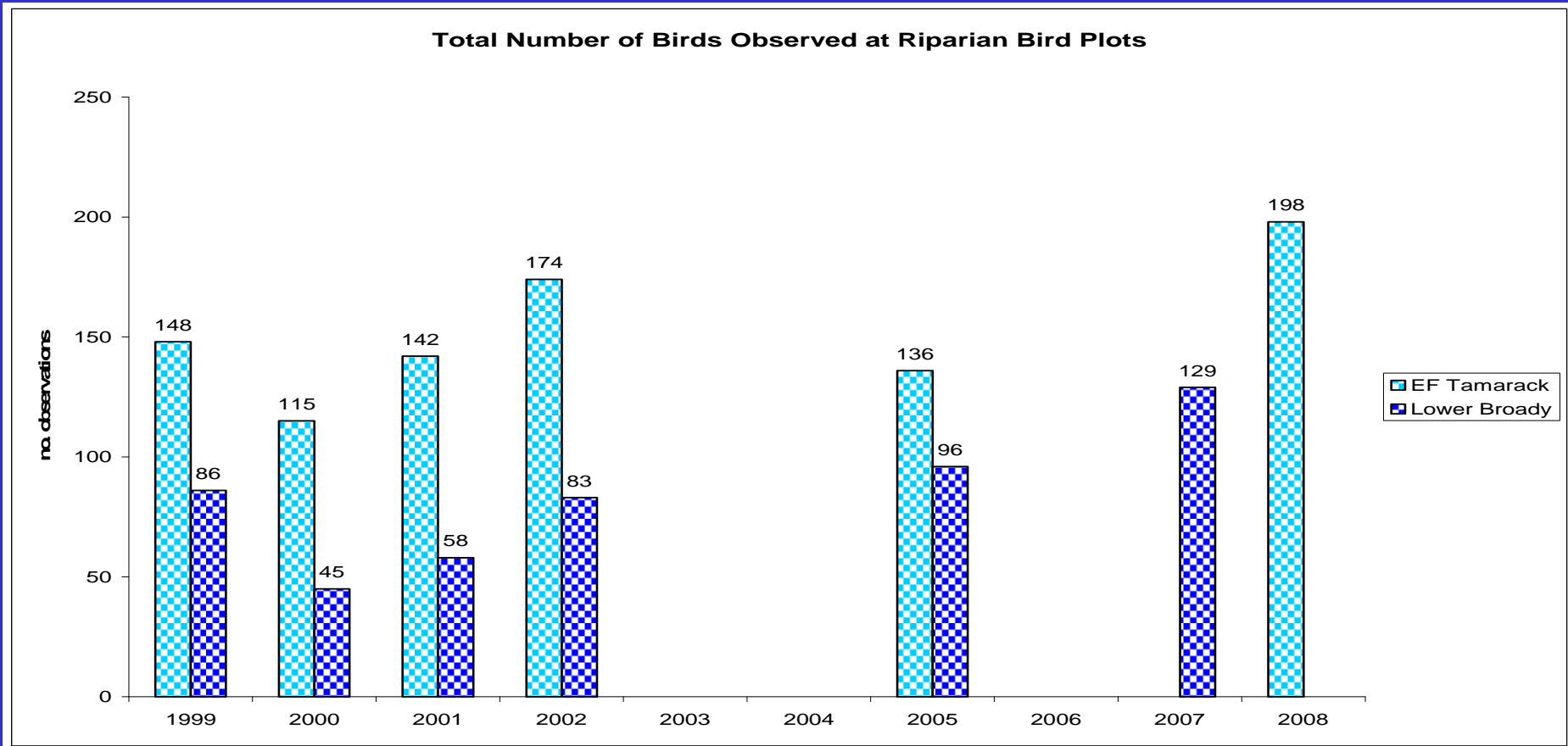
Protect 27 miles (647 Acres)
No livestock grazing
Weed control
Nest Box Placement

Existing Conditions:

	Year	Basin R-3		Joseph R-7		Rock R-9	
		2000	2008	2002	2008	2002	2007
% Tree Canopy		66	68	96	83	75	66
% Shrub Canopy		79	78	56	70	72	86
Snags/acre		3.8	4	3	5	10	8.7



Bird Monitoring: Riparian Plots



Project Response to Limiting Factors

Ponderosa Pine: Changed fire regime, loss of large diameter trees, encroachment by Douglas-fir, weeds

Project Goals:

50-80% tree canopy cover
25-45% shrub canopy cover
≥ 2 snags 4-10" dbh per acre
≥ 0.5 snags ≥ 20" dbh per acre

Management Activities:

Protect 1,930 Acres
No logging or grazing
Plant trees on 250 Acres
Weed control
Prescribed fire

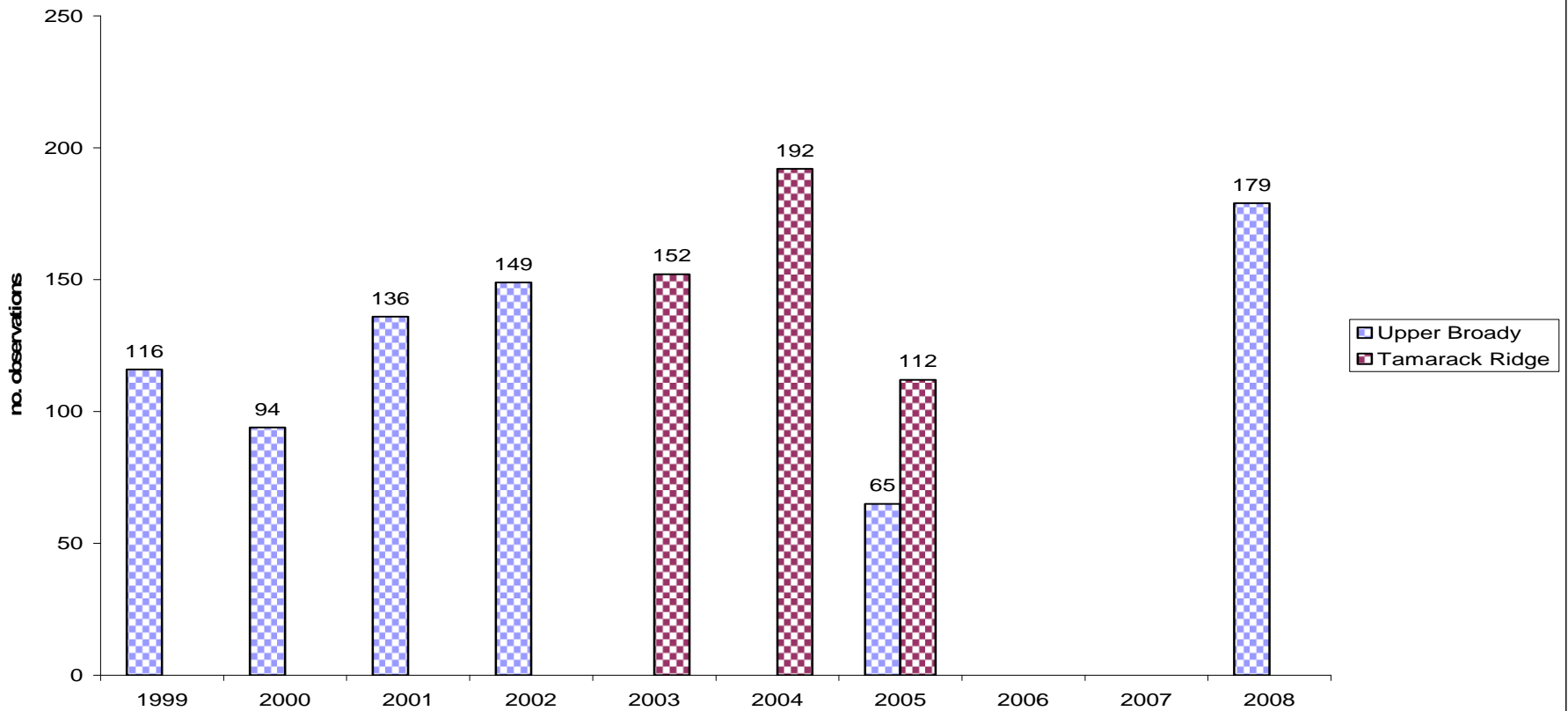
Existing Conditions:

	Year	Buford C-2		Tamarack C-3	
		2000	2004	2000	2004
% Tree Canopy		54.6	55	72.5	72.8
% Shrub Canopy		65.8	73.3	70.8	69.5
4-10" Snags/acre		10	11.6	35	35.7
>20" Snags/acre		0	0	0	0



Bird Monitoring: Conifer Plots

Total Number of Birds Observed at Conifer Bird Plots



Project Response to Limiting Factors

Grasslands: Weeds, direct loss & fragmentation, over-grazing, loss of microbiotic crust, changes in fire regime

Project Goals:

60-75% herbaceous cover
 < 30% cheatgrass or other weeds
 30-35 cm ave. herbaceous height

Management Activities:

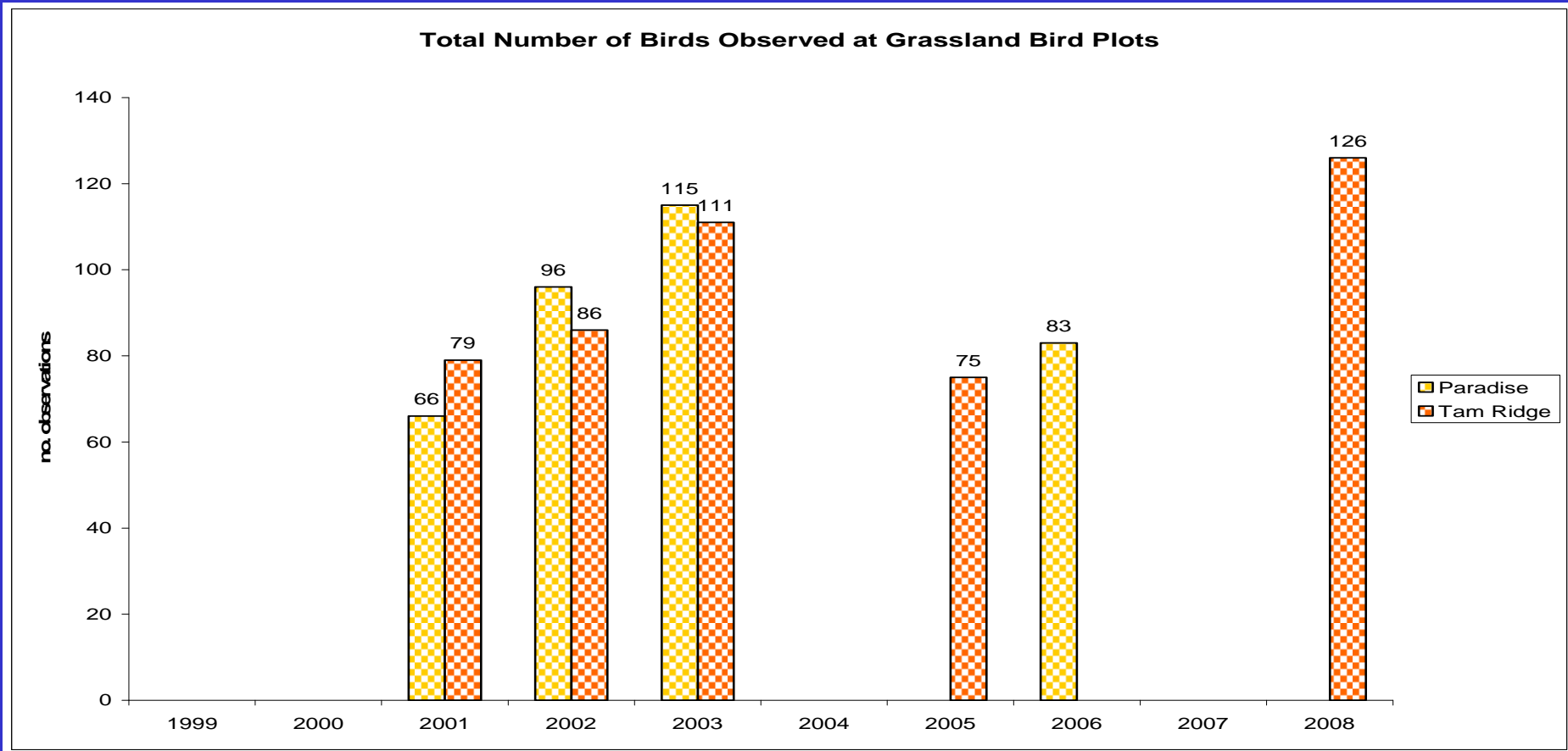
Protect 12,062 Acres
 Restore 112 Acres
 No grazing
 Weed control
 Plant Basin Wild Rye
 Prescribed fire?

Existing Conditions:

	Year	Tamarack G-4		Basin G-9		Paradise G-10	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2002	2007
% Herb. Cover		61.2	55.1	81.2	60.8	53.3	47.1
% Cheatgrass		9.6	7.1	39.3	19.7	28.5	4.9
Herb. Height		36.1	45.2	30.2	39.6	36.9	41.6



Bird Monitoring: Grassland Plots



Project Response to Limiting Factors

Canyon Shrublands: Loss of bunchgrass cover, weeds, disease within bighorn sheep populations

Project Goals:

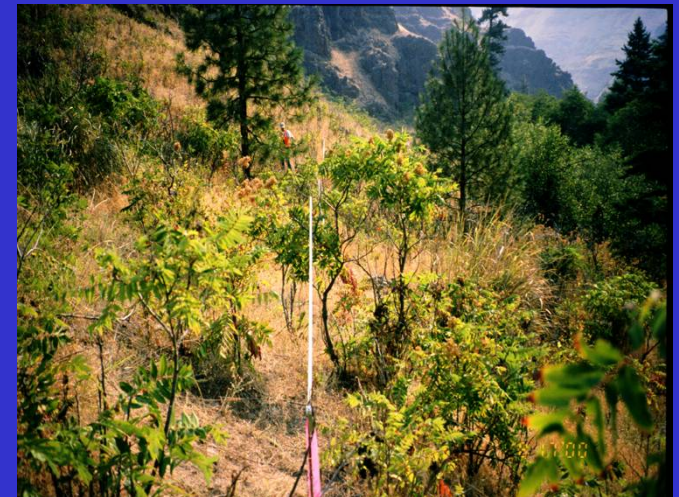
A mosaic of seral stages
40-65% shrub canopy cover
50-75% herbaceous cover

Management Activities:

Protect 1,234 Acres
No grazing
Weed control

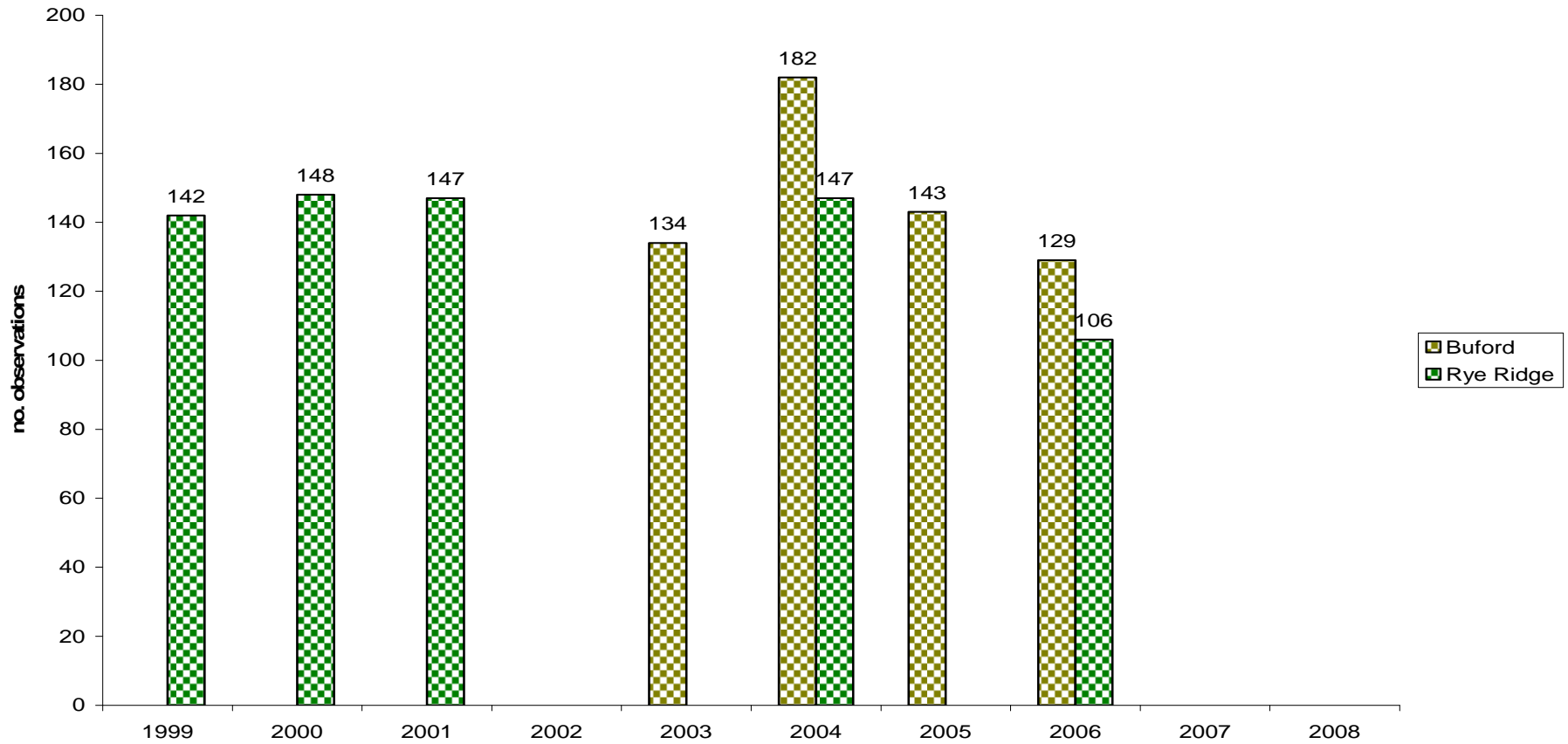
Existing Conditions:

	Year	Rye Shrub S-1		Basin Shrub S-4	
		2000	2005	2001	2006
% Shrub Canopy		63.9	80	88.3	94
% Herb. Cover		87.6	25.7	45.7	26.9



Bird Monitoring: Shrubland Plots

Total Number of Birds Observed at Shrub Bird Plots



Project Response to Limiting Factors

Quaking Aspen: Fire suppression, over-grazing, conifer encroachment, invasive weeds

Project Goals:

Increase aspen stand area by 20% by year 2015

Management Activities:

Protect 10 Acres

No grazing

Weed control

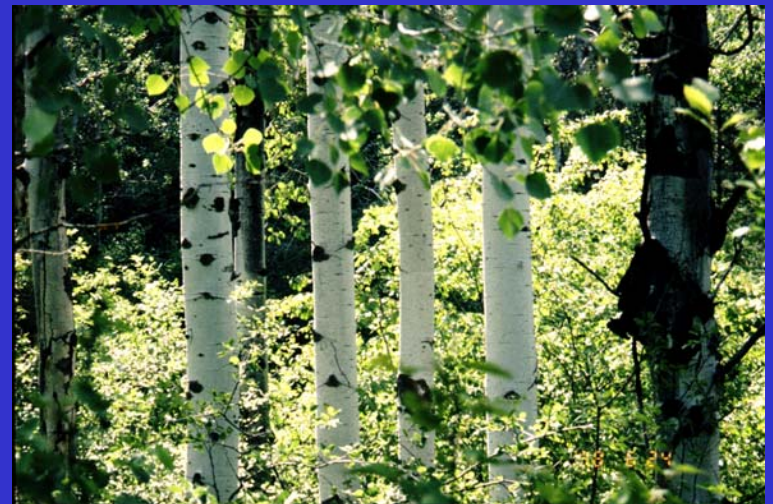
Plant suitable sites

Existing Conditions:

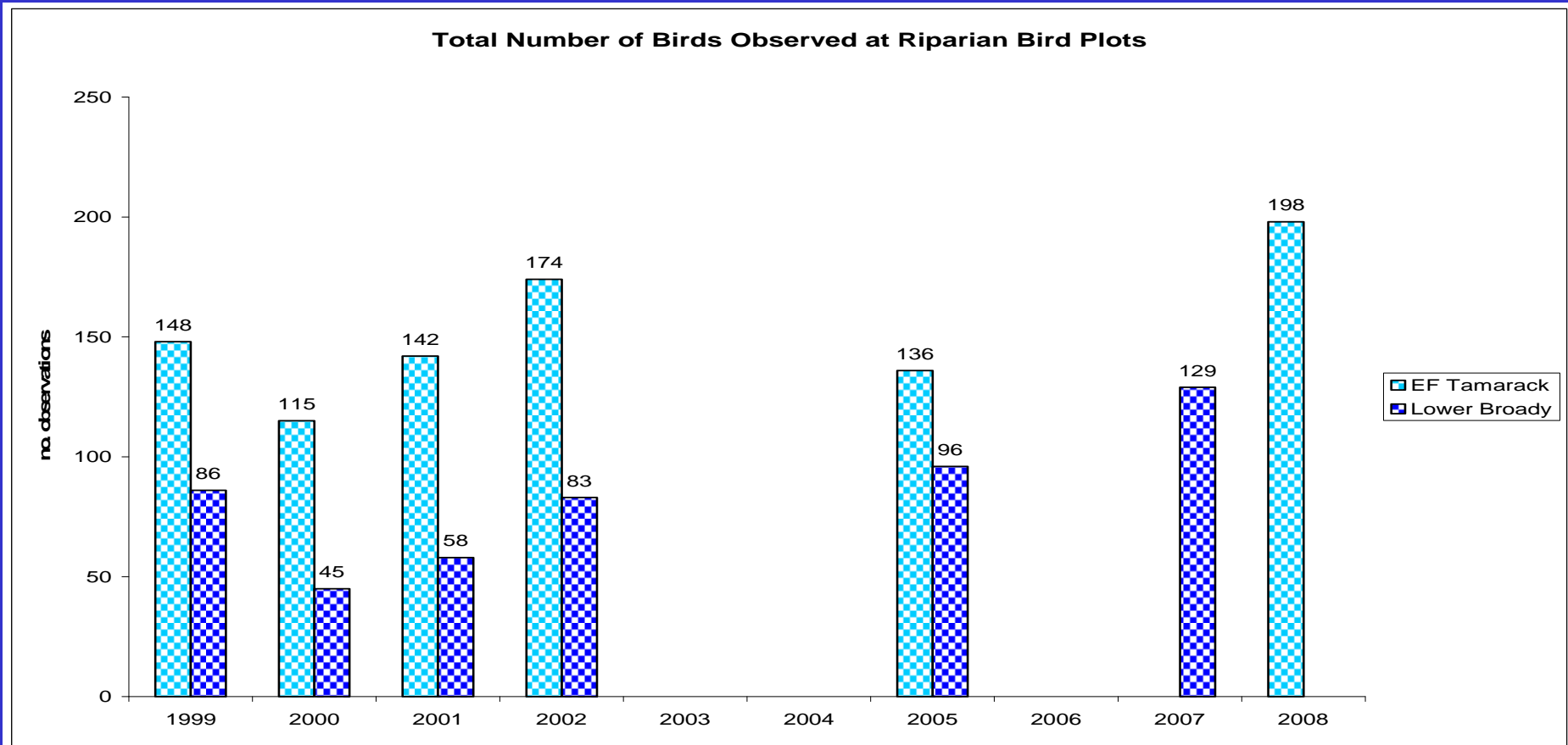
Stands are small & scattered

Good recruitment

55% survival of planted trees



Bird Monitoring: Riparian Plots



Project Response to Limiting Factors

Aquatic (Joseph Cr.): Sedimentation, high water temperatures, loss of large woody debris & habitat complexity

Project Goals:

≤ 25% cobble embeddedness

60-100% surface shading

Max daily summer temp ≤ 68 F

≥ 20 pools per stream mile

≥ 60 pieces of woody debris ≥ 12"
per stream mile

Management Activities:

Protect 16.3 miles

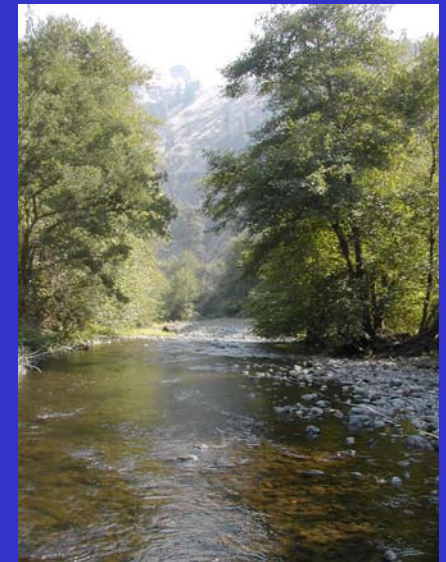
No grazing

Weed control

Add large woody debris

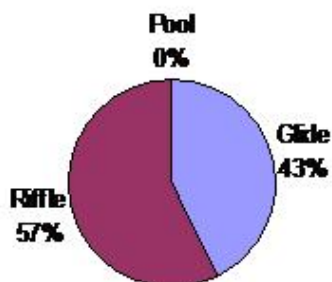
Existing Conditions:

Variable	Basin	Bear	Broady	Cottonwood	Joseph
Tree Canopy	85	70	70	65	46
Temp* (F)	53.6	50	52.7	57.2	57.9
#pools/mi	12.5	0	50	25	2.5
LWD/mi	33.3	72.2	34.6	0	5.0

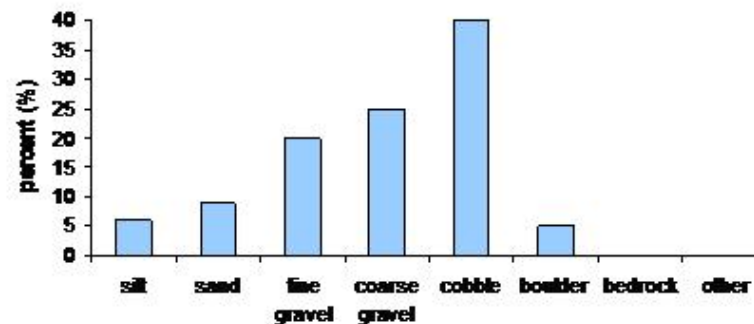


FISH ASSESSMENT - JOSEPH CREEK SITE #17

Habitat Segment Types at JoCr17



Habitat Substrate at JoCr17



Species List

Steelhead
Speckled Dace
Longnose Dace
Leopard Dace
Paiute Sculpin
Bridgelip Sucker
Largescale Sucker
Chislemouth
Smallmouth Bass
Northern Pike Minnow



Northern Pike Minnow

Summary of Results:

Exotic fish
High Temps
Low Habitat Complexity
Lack of Pools
Lack of LWD

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Wildlife & Plant Inventories



Birds - 1999-2008

Point-count Monitoring, Play-back Surveys

Small Mammals - 1999-2000

Pitfall and Snap Trapping

Bats - 1999 and 2003

Mist-netting and Roost Searches

Carnivores - 2001-2002

Remote Camera Bait Stations

Amphibians - 1998-2008

Breeding Season Pond Surveys

Rare Plants - 2000-2008

Targeted Habitat Searches

Butterfly Survey – 2005

Targeted Habitat Searches

Fish Assessment – 2006

Electroshocking & Habitat Assessment



Habitat Improvement Work

Noxious Weed Control

- Inventory & Mapping
- Lethal Control Actions
- Bio-Control Releases



Plant Community Restoration

- Agricultural Field Restoration
- Aspen, Wild Rye & Conifer Plantings
- Ponderosa Pine Thinning & Burning
- Pond Rehabilitation



Passive Restoration

- No Grazing Policy
- Vehicle Restrictions



Primary O & M Components

Facilities Maintenance

- Maintain 3 Crew Cabins
- Manage Water Systems
- Out Building Repairs



Fence Construction & Maintenance

- New Construction
- Maintenance of Existing Fence
- Old Fence Removal



Access Management

- Installation of Boundary Signs
- Informational Signs & Handouts
- Road and Trail Maintenance



Primary M & E Components

Status & Trend Monitoring

- Neotropical Birds
- Pond Amphibians
- Big Game Winter Counts (ODFW)
- Vegetation Transects
- Permanent Photo Points

Project Specific Monitoring

- Ag. Field Restoration

TES Species Monitoring

- Silene Spaldingii*
- Six Sensitive Plant Species
- Steelhead Population



Future Work

Revise Management Plan

- Use Adaptive Management Framework

Develop Prescribed Fire Plan

- Include ODF, BLM & USFS

Large Woody Debris Project

- Add 50 Pieces LWD to Joseph Cr.
- Monitor Habitat & Fish Response

Nest Box Placement

- Build and Install 60 Nest Boxes

Inventory Under-represented Taxa

- Lichens, Mosses, Fungi, Insects, Reptiles, Mollusks

Land Acquisition

- Purchase ~2500 Acres



Thank You

The Nez Perce Tribe



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